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- Town Meeting Results

- Capital Improvements updates
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EYE ON NORTH BERWICK

*The Newsletter
of the
Town of North Berwick*

November 2020

NOVEMBER ELECTION NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is intended to assist North Berwick voters with understanding the issues that will be voted upon at the November 3, 2020 election. The Board of Selectmen is encouraging North Berwick voters to use this newsletter as a guide to the election and to vote on November 3, 2020. **Please feel free to bring the newsletter to the polls to assist you in your voting decisions since there are no explanations on the ballot with the questions.**

WHERE TO VOTE? North Berwick Elementary School located on Varney Road between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

WHO CAN VOTE? You must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years old, live in Maine and be a registered to vote in the Town of North Berwick.

WHERE DO I REGISTER? You may register to vote at the Town Office, or at the polls during election day.

CAN I HAVE HELP VOTING? Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official can also help you read or mark a ballot. However, your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

HOW DO I MARK A BALLOT? The Town uses an optical scanning machine to count the completed ballots. Complete the oval next to your choice. If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. DO NOT ERASE.

DO I NEED TO GO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY TO VOTE? No. Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at the polling place. Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. Any registered voter may request a ballot in person, by phone or <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>

For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot, including a ballot voted in the presence of the clerk, is Friday, October 30, 2020 until 5 pm, unless the voter completes a special circumstances application, stating one of four allowable reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after this deadline. The four reasons are:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- A physical disability,
- An inability to travel to the polls because the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct; or
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

This special circumstances application must be signed **by the voter**. This application can be obtained from the Town Clerk or from the Secretary of State.

All ballots must be returned by 8 pm on Election Day. If returning your ballot by mail, please plan accordingly. Any ballots received after 8 pm will not be counted.



Absentee Voting Guide

Voting is one of the fundamental rights we have as citizens of this state and country. Everyone should make an effort to cast a ballot at each election.

Maine law makes it easy to cast an absentee ballot. You don't have to be out-of-town or have any other reason to take advantage of this easy way to vote at a time that is most convenient for you.

If you would like to vote by absentee ballot, please take a few moments to review the information below. Contact your local municipal clerk or the Elections Division if you have additional questions.

Make sure you have a voice in your future - cast a ballot.

What is absentee voting and how does it work?

Absentee voting allows you to cast a ballot without going to a voting place on Election Day.

Who may vote absentee?

Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at a voting place on Election Day. You don't need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the voting place on Election Day to receive an absentee ballot.

What are the steps to voting by absentee ballot?

1. Complete an absentee ballot application to get a ballot; then,
2. Fill out and deliver the ballot back to the municipal clerk, or to the Secretary of State, Division of Elections (if you are a [Uniformed Service or Overseas voter](#)).

Is there a deadline to request an absentee ballot?

For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot by telephone or online Absentee Ballot Request service is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, 2020.

A voter may vote in the presence of the clerk during the clerk's office hours, until 5:00 p.m. on Friday October 30, 2020.

How do I apply for and receive an absentee ballot?

Contact the Chris Dudley, Town Clerk at Town Hall. [Uniformed Service and Overseas voters](#) will request an absentee ballot directly from the Secretary of State, Division of Elections.

You can make a telephone request for your own ballot, which will be mailed to the address you provide to the clerk.

You can request your own ballot electronically using the Secretary of State's online absentee ballot request service. The approved online form can be found at the following web site: <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee Ballot/index.pl>

You can make a written request by completing an absentee ballot application. Additionally, you can obtain a ballot for an immediate family member in this same way. A ballot will be mailed to the voter directly or to an immediate family member making the request. Your municipal clerk can tell you who is considered an immediate family member under the law.

NOTE: Ballots obtained by the voter or an immediate family member do not require witnesses, unless the voter receives assistance from another person in reading or marking the ballot.

Applications are available before the election from the municipal clerk or online at: <http://www.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/Absentee Ballot/index.pl>

NOTE: If you receive an unsolicited absentee ballot application in the mail from a political party, campaign or advocacy organization, please note that these entities are not affiliated with the State of Maine's Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions or your municipal clerk's office. Thus, they have no way of knowing whether or not you have already requested your absentee ballot.

You can disregard the mailing, or if you have not yet requested your ballot and you choose to use the form, make sure that the envelope mails the application directly to your municipal clerk for processing. Please do not fill out this form and return it to your clerk if you have already requested your absentee ballot by other means, as the review and rejection process of subsequent requests will result in unnecessary work for your municipal clerk. You need only submit one request.

Can I vote by absentee ballot in person somewhere?

Yes. You may vote absentee at the clerk's office as soon as absentee ballots are available. Absentee ballots are available at least 30 days before the election at the municipal clerk's office. You don't need to complete an application if you vote in person at the clerk's office. The deadline for absentee voting in the presence of the clerk, unless special circumstances exist, is the Thursday before the election.

For the Tuesday, November 3, 2020 General Election, voters can vote in-person absentee through 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020.

When must my voted ballot be returned to my municipal clerk?

To be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received by the municipal clerk by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

If you plan to use the U.S. mail to receive or return your absentee ballot please note the following U.S. Postal Service advisories for mail delivery:

- Request your ballot no later than 15 days prior to Election Day
- Return your ballot no later than 7 days prior to Election Day

The USPS has assured us that all absentee ballots returned to your municipal clerk by mail at least 7 days prior to Election Day are guaranteed to be delivered in time to be cast and counted in the election.

If you plan to return your ballot outside of the suggested USPS delivery window, we encourage you to drop off your ballot in person via the absentee ballot drop box at Town Hall no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day; or plan instead to vote in person at the polls on Election Day.

Are there any other ways to receive an absentee ballot?

You may make a written request for a "third person" (someone other than the voter or the voter's immediate family member) to obtain and hand-deliver an absentee ballot.

You must designate, in a written request or application, the specific third person who will handle and deliver the ballot. Only this designated third person may handle the absentee ballot.

Ballots cast in this way must be witnessed by either a notary public, a municipal clerk, a clerk of courts, or 2 other witnesses.

What happens if I attempt to vote in person after I have returned my absentee ballot or vice versa?

When you vote by absentee ballot in the State of Maine, your municipal clerk will take receipt of the ballot and verify that it can be accepted. Once they do so, they will mark your name in the voter system as "AV" for "absentee voter." Thus, when they print out the incoming voter list just before Election Day, your name will already be "checked off" with the indicator marking that you have already voted via absentee ballot, and you will not be eligible to receive a ballot if you show up to vote in person.

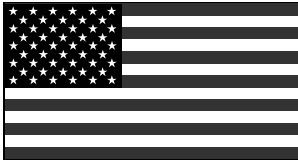
On Election Day, some voters are still dropping off their absentee ballots and the town office is still receiving some by mail. Absentee ballots are processed in batches throughout the day and the list of those newly received absentee ballots is shared with each polling place for each batch, so if the absentee voter tries to vote in person, they will not be able to do so. (And conversely, if they vote in person before their ballot arrives that day, their absentee ballot will be rejected).

How do I track the Status of my ballot?

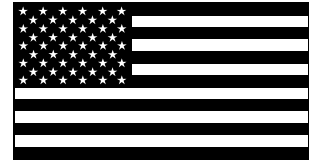
To track the progress of your absentee ballot, click on the black button at the top of the [Online Absentee Ballot Request Service](#) page that says, "Check the status of your absentee ballot." The ballot tracking system will show you the date that your absentee ballot application is accepted by your municipal clerk, the date your clerk issues (mails out) your ballot to you, and the date your clerk receives your ballot. Please note that the tracker is not updated instantaneously; the information is accessible to you after your municipal clerk enters the updates. You can use this tracking system regardless of how you initially request your absentee ballot (whether you request it directly with your municipal clerk or using the online service). If you have any concerns about your ballot, please contact your municipal clerk directly.

How do I request an accessible absentee ballot?

As of October 2, 2020, the Secretary of State's office is providing an accessible PDF electronic ballot option for any Maine voter who has a print disability and would like to vote independently from home. Please visit our [Accessible Voting page](#) for more information.



NOVEMBER 3, 2020 **ELECTION GUIDE**



CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

Joseph R. Biden/ Kamala D. Harris	Democrat
Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente/ Darcy G. Richardson	Alliance
Howard Hawkins/ Angela Nicole Walker	Green
Jo Jorgensen/ Jeremy Cohen	Libertarian
Donald J. Trump/ Michael R. Pence	Republican

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Susan Margaret Collins	Republican
Sara I. Gideon	Democrat
Max Patrick Linn	Independent
Lisa Savage	Independent

REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS

Jay T. Allen	Republican
Chellie M. Pingree	Democrat

STATE SENATOR

District 34

Michael Pardue	Republican
Joseph E. Rafferty, Jr.	Democrat

REPRESENTATIVE TO LEGISLATURE

District 5

Charles Galemme	Democrat
Beth A. O'Connor	Republican

REPRESENTATIVE TO LEGISLATURE

District 6

Burnell W. Bailey	Republican
Tiffany Danielle Roberts	Democrat

JUDGE OF PROBATE

Scott M. Houde	Democrat
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REGISTER OF PROBATE

Carol J. Lovejoy	Republican
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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS BUDGET RESULTS



Municipal Budget

Town Meeting was held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 and due to COVID 19, the budget was presented as referendum questions. A total of 893 citizens voted on the budget. The results of the budget are as follows for Fiscal Year 2021:

	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>Inc(Dec)</u>
Taxation	\$2,835,010.00	\$2,891,310.00	1.99%
State Rev. Sharing	\$174,000.00	\$174,000.00	0.00%
Excise Tax	\$850,535.00	\$911,075.00	7.11%
Equipment Fund	\$153,270.00	\$70,750.00	-53.84%
Misc. Fees:	\$335,730.00	\$400,315.00	19.24%
Road Block Grant	\$70,500.00	\$70,500.00	0.00%
Enterprise Fund	\$134,865.00	\$133,985.00	-0.06%
Des. Surplus	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Undes Surplus	<u>\$227,900.00</u>	<u>\$396,400.00</u>	<u>73.94%</u>
TOTAL	\$4,791,818.00	\$5,508,335.00	5.56%

After all the articles were acted upon, the total budget increased by \$266,517.00 or a 5.56% increase, however, a \$215,000.00 grant awarded to the Town by the State of Maine for the Linscott Road Intersection Relocation Project reduced the increase to 1.08%. The amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget increased by \$56,292.00.

By Department

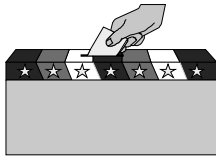
	<u>FY20</u>	<u>FY21</u>	<u>Inc(Dec)</u>
Highway	\$556,035.00	\$576,575.00	3.69%
Capital Imp.	\$857,843.00	\$998,748.00	16.43%
General Gov.	\$1,002,095.00	\$1,037,765.00	3.56%
Protection	\$1,595,730.00	\$1,646,290.00	3.17%
Library	\$252,750.00	\$262,765.00	3.96%
Parks and Rec.	\$115,600.00	\$123,675.00	6.99%
Health and Social	\$272,758.00	\$273,945.00	0.44%
Other	\$43,092.00	\$42,657.00	-1.01%
Debt	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>0.00%</u>
TOTAL	\$4,791,818.00	\$5,508,335.00	5.56%

Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$653,670.00	\$578,670.00	-11.47%
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	new
Police	\$55,600.00	\$42,080.00	-24.32%
Rescue	\$33,500.00	\$33,400.00	-0.30%
Transfer Station	\$900.00	\$1,500.00	66.67%
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fire	<u>\$114,173.00</u>	<u>\$153,098.00</u>	<u>34.09%</u>
TOTAL	\$857,843.00	\$998,748.00	16.43%

County Budget: The York County Budget assessment to the town increased by \$14,813.0000 for FY21. The Town of North Berwick's portion of the County Budget for FY20 is \$387,470.00.

Education Budget: This year the overall SAD #60 budget increased by \$530,157.00 or 1.26%, and the district's had an increase of taxation to the three communities totaling \$681,640.00 due to the loss of state general purpose aid. This increase resulting in an increase to the Town of North Berwick in the amount of \$187,695.00. The town's share of the SAD 60 budget is \$6,005,189.00. North Berwick's percentage of SAD 60's cost has decreased this year from 29.39% to 29.31% due in to the Town's State valuation and lower pupil count. Berwick and Lebanon's share of the education costs are 39.56% (\$8,358,594.00 which represented a \$281,521.00 increase) and 31.13% (\$6,577,430.00 which represented a \$226,926.00 increase) respectively.



VOTING RESULTS

The following people were elected into office during voting at Town Meeting;

Charles Galemme, Selectman
Kristin Johnson, SAD 60 Board (Resigned and replaced
by Lynn Manley)
Robert Glidden, Cemetery Trustee
Melissa Peirce, Cemetery Trustee
James Muthig, Water District Trustee
Carl Works, Water District Trustee

Maurice Dolbec., Sanitary District Trustee
Daniel Baker Budget Committee
Christina Brown, Budget Committee
Julie Fernee, Budget Committee
Rebecca Reed, Budget Committee
Peter Derby, Budget Committee

BUDGET REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: Shall the Town authorize the Collector to accept taxes in anticipation of tax commitment and to set a date for payment of taxes and determine a rate of interest on overdue taxes.

Due Date: October 2, 2020
Delinquent: October 3, 2020
Balance Due: May 7, 2021
Delinquent: May 8, 2021
Interest: 9.00%

739 YES 150 NO

QUESTION 2: Shall the Town vote to deposit the excess balance of the 2021 fiscal year Excise Tax and all unspent appropriated Excise Tax into the Equipment Fund.

749 YES 144 NO

QUESTION 3: Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to utilize Undesignated Fund Balance for the unforeseen purchase and/or repair of vehicles and equipment for the current fiscal year not to exceed \$40,000.00 during the fiscal year.

781 YES 106 NO

QUESTION 4: Shall the Town vote to authorize the Selectmen to accept conditional and unconditional contributions of monetary gifts, property and equipment on behalf of the Town.

693 YES 197 NO

QUESTION 5: Shall the Town vote to certify that the public purpose of the Canal Street Affordable Housing Development District is being met and that the required housing affordability and other conditions of approval, including limitations on uses of tax increment revenues for approved development project costs, set forth in the Certificate of Approval issued by Maine State Housing Authority for the District and the related Affordable Housing Development Program are being maintained and approve the appropriation into and the expenditure from the Affordable Housing Development Program Fund of the amounts required by the Credit Enhancement Agreement dated as of December 2006 between the Town and North Berwick Affordable Housing Limited Partnership established by the Town pursuant to the Canal Street Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing District and the Development Program.

753 YES 128 NO

QUESTION 6: Shall the Town vote that all balances, both debits and credits in all departments of Town Government be lapsed except for the following account balances to be carried forward:

Winter Highway	Sidewalks
Parks and Recreation	Patch
Animal Control	HRA Funds
Town Computer Account	
Mill Field Festival	
Capital Improvement Funds	

740 YES 94 NO

QUESTION 7: Shall the Town vote to apply the following estimated amounts from Excise Taxes, Miscellaneous Fee Revenues, Revenue Sharing, BETE Reimbursement and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to use toward the 2020/2021 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

Excise Taxes	\$910,000.00
Miscellaneous Fee Revenues	\$400,000.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$174,000.00
State Road Bond	\$70,250.00
Homestead Exemption Reimb	\$233,000.00
BETE Reimbursement	<u>\$1,900,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,687,250.00

779 YES 61 NO

QUESTION 8: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$180,000.00** from Undesignated Fund Balance to fund the following real estate transactions, which will be required for the **Linscott Road/Route 9 Intersection Relocation Project**, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and complete these transactions?

- Purchase a .88 acre parcel of land located between Linscott Road and Route 9 (Map 19, Lot 7 – Weaver Property) (“Lot A”);
- Convey a 11,500 square foot portion of Lot A to the State of Maine, owner of the abutting property;
- Purchase a .32 acre parcel of land located on Route 9 (Map 22, Lot 58 – State of Maine Property) (“Lot B”);
- Purchase and install a modular home on Lot B; and
- Convey Lot B and the modular home to the current owner of Lot A.

660 YES 175 NO

QUESTION 9: Shall the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a portion of the newly acquired Weaver Property (Map 19 Lot 7 – “Lot A”) to the abutting property owner (Map 19 Lot 6 -Healey Property), to remedy the shared boundary line between the parcels?

707 YES 122 NO

QUESTION 10: Shall the Town vote to accept Deerfield Estates Road as a Town Road?

689 YES 112 NO

QUESTION 11: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,878,335.00 to be funded in part with \$70,750.00 from Equipment Fund, \$133,985.00 from Enterprise Fund, and \$216,400.00 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the **Town of North Berwick FY2021 Fiscal Year Budget**.

697 YES 136 NO

ZONING QUESTIONS

Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Ordinance amending the North Berwick Zoning Ordinance to expand areas in and near the industrial zone where industrial uses will be permitted and to make conforming changes to the Zoning Map,” be enacted?

Map changes:

- Enlarge the Industrial Zone to encompass all of Map 2 Lot 31-1 (n/f Hussey Seating Property), Map 2, Lot 30 (n/f Newhall property) and the proposed Linscott Road Intersection location (n/f Weaver Property).
- Remove Map 19 lot 31 (n/f Ludington Property) from Industrial Zone and move the Residential I Zone line to encompass this lot.
- Move Residential I Zone line to encompass all of Map 2 Lot 33 (n/f Versocki Property).

547 YES 237 NO

Question #2: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Table 4.3 of the Zoning Ordinance to further define ‘Rear setback when abutting a Residential Use,’ be enacted?

591 YES 180 NO

All Referendum Questions were approved by voters.

TAX RATE ESTABLISHED AT \$11.90

The Board of Selectmen has established the FY2020 Tax Rate for the Town at \$11.90 per thousand dollars of valuation. This represents a \$0.45 decrease in the tax rate. Although the tax rate decreased, taxpayers will notice that tax bills remained about the same or decreased slightly from last year. This was due in part to a valuation adjustment on building values for properties throughout the town. This is the second year in a row that the Town had to adjust property values in order to maintain the assessing valuations between 91-100% of market value, as determined by the State of Maine. This allows the Town to offer the full homestead exemption to property owners and to ensure that the town will receive the full reimbursement from the State for programs such as Revenue Sharing and BETE reimbursement. (This represents over \$2 million dollars that helps offset property taxes.) This past year, values slipped to 91% of market value and it was anticipated that values would drop below the 90% threshold. After a review of the sales data and the town's valuation data, the assessor increased residential building tables by 5%, land values by 5% to bring the town's expected assessment ratio to 94 - 96%. The valuation adjustment coupled with the increased valuation the town realized from new construction allowed the Selectmen to establish the lower tax rate.

This year it was generally predicted that the Town would see an increase in our mill rate due primarily to the \$187,695.00 increase in the MSAD 60 portion of the budget. However, the budget was assisted by a large increase in the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program due to the purchase of equipment by Pratt and Whitney. The town also saw growth in the town's valuation due to new home construction. As a result of the valuation adjustment and new construction valuation, 48.69 % of property owners saw a decrease in their tax bill, 33.36% had less than a \$25 increase in their tax bill, 13.02% saw an increase between \$25-100.00 in their tax bill and 4.93% saw an increase of over \$100.00. The 4.93% of property owners with more than a \$100.00 increase was mainly due to building improvements made on their property in the prior year.

\$11.90 Tax Rate

	<u>FY2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Combined Diff</u>
Municipal Appropriation	\$ 2,835,018.00	\$ 2,891,310.00	\$ 56,292.00	} \$ 105,391.05
TIF financing plan amount	\$ 22,065.75	\$ 21,261.73	\$ (804.02)	
Overlay	\$ 314,293.29	\$ 364,196.36	\$ 49,903.07	
School/Educational Appropriations	\$ 6,005,189.00	\$ 6,192,884.00	\$ 187,695.00	\$ 187,695.00
County Tax	\$ 372,657.00	\$ 387,470.00	\$ 14,813.00	\$ 14,813.00
Totals	\$ 9,549,223.04	\$ 9,857,122.09	\$ 307,899.05	\$ 293,086.05
Local Taxable Real Estate Valuation	\$ 539,126,500.00	\$ 564,402,200.00	\$ 25,275,700.00	
Local Personal Property Valuation	\$ 65,871,800.00	\$ 64,769,800.00	\$ (1,102,000.00)	
Total of Homestead Exempt Value	\$ 13,487,500.00	\$ 19,530,000.00	\$ 6,042,500.00	
BETE Reimbursement Value	\$ 154,730,639.00	\$ 179,627,587.60	\$ 24,896,948.60	
Totals	\$ 773,216,439.00	\$ 828,329,587.60	\$ 55,113,148.60	

Accounts by Tax Increase

Decrease to \$0	1204	48.69%
\$0.01 to \$25.00	825	33.36%
\$25.01 to \$100.00	322	13.02%
\$100.01 and Up	122	4.93%
	2473	100.00%

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS - UPDATES

This year voters approved the following Capital Improvements

Fire Department:

Pumper: Voters approved the \$37,547.00 payment on the pumper purchased 8 years ago. This is the eighth of ten payments on the bond for the fire pumper.

Tanker: Voters approved the \$25,511.00 payment on the tanker purchase 5 years ago. This is the fifth payment on the 10-year bond to fund the purchase of the tanker

Fire Station Planning: Over the past three years, the town has been appropriating \$50,000.00 a year for the planning of a new Fire Station. In December 2018, the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with the Planning Committee, entered into a contract with Port City Architecture to complete a feasibility study for the new facility to house both the Fire Department and Rescue Squad on land owned by the Town on Lebanon Road, incorporating the existing Rescue Squad Building into the design. This land is geographically located in the center of the Town. Port City Architecture completed a feasibility study in the Summer/Fall of 2019. Conceptual Plans have been created of the proposed new Station, however, final design has not been completed. Voters approved the appropriation of \$50,000.000 to continue the process of planning for a new facility for the Fire Department and Rescue Squad. *It is planned to finetune the design in an effort to bring it to voters for approval, however, at this time the project has been placed on hold due to the projected construction costs. It is hoped to revisit the project within the next year.*

Pumper: In preparation of replacing the 1993 Fire Pumper, voters approved the appropriation of \$40,000.000 in a reserve account. It is scheduled to replace the new pumper in FY2023 when the vehicle will be 30 years old. By placing funds into a reserve account, the Town will be able to lessen the tax impact when the replacement vehicle is purchased.

Public Works:

Loader: Voters approved the \$28,670.00 payment for the Loader purchased 4 years ago. This is the last payment on the Loader.

Sidewalk Machine: Voters approve the \$145,000.00 purchase of a new MT Trackless Sidewalk Machine to replace the current 1996 MT Trackless. *Update: The town has purchased the new MT Trackless machine at a total cost of \$129,777.00 including a new ribbon snowblower and a rear sander/spreader to maintain the town's sidewalks.*



Rescue Squad:

Ambulance: Voters approved the final payment of \$33,400.00 on the Ambulance purchased in 2019.

Police Department:

Police Cruiser: Voters approved the purchase of a replacement SUV Cruiser for the Police Department in the amount of \$ 42,060.00. *The Town has purchased the vehicle and will be placed into service this fall after the cruiser has been equipped.*



ROAD PROJECTS

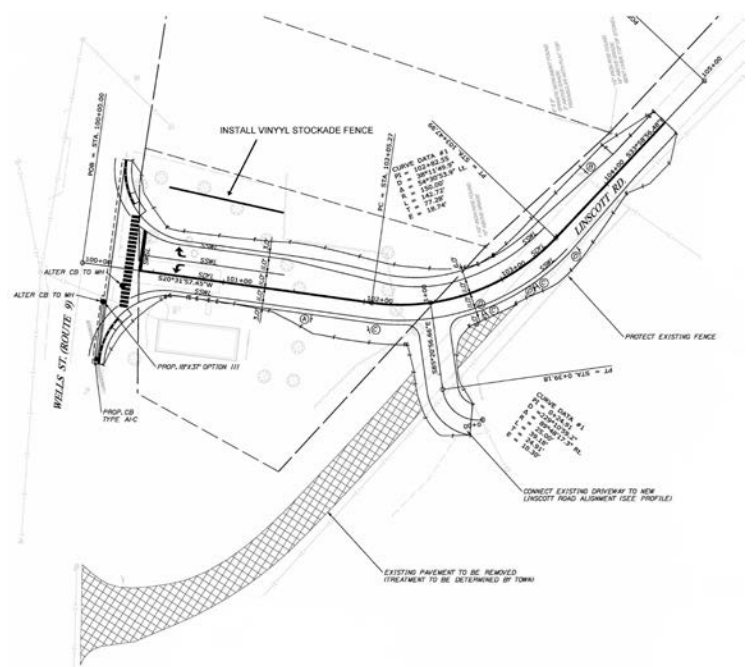
FY2021 ROAD CIP

PROJECTS: The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget approved by the voters is \$405,000.00. In addition to making the \$105,616.00 payment on the road bond approved eight years ago, the following projects were approved for the ensuing fiscal year.

Beech Ridge Road: The Town performed drainage improvements and resurfaced the section of Beech Ridge Road from Lebanon Road to the Reischl residence.

Dillingham Road: The Town reconstructed the 850 foot section of Dillingham Road from the Gerrish Farm to the culvert.

Linscott Road: Voters approve the Linscott Road Intersection Relocation Project which will relocate the Linscott Road Intersection from its current location to the east on land formerly owned by the Weaver Family. In order to accomplish this project, voters approved the \$180,000.00 purchase of the Weaver property that abuts the intersection and State of Maine property to the east of the current intersection. In order to complete the purchase of the Weaver property, the Town entered into an agreement with the MDOT to transfer ownership of a parcel of land under State of Maine ownership to the town in exchange for a portion of the Weaver property to increase the MDOT right of way along Route 9. The Town will construct a modular home on the State property and then exchange this improved property with the Weavers for the parcel of land necessary to accomplish the relocation of Linscott Road.



The Town also submitted and was approved for a grant from the MDOT under the Municipal Partnership Initiative in the amount of \$215,000.00 to assist the town with this project. **The new Intersection construction will begin in the Fall of 2020 with completion slated for the Spring of 2021.**

The Town of North Berwick has been working to provide for a safer intersection onto Wells Street for the past several years. The current intersection of Linscott Road and Wells Street is unsafe with sight distances less than 100 feet when looking to the west due to the bridge over the railroad tracks and the geometric design of Wells Street. There are no possible improvements that can be made to increase the sight distance at the current location. Traffic exiting Linscott Road is forced to cautiously navigate onto Route 9 without the ability to see oncoming traffic, leading to an unsafe situation. Traffic on Wells Street heading East cannot see the Linscott Road intersection until they crest the bridge.

The relocation of the intersection will increase sight distance from approximately 100 feet to 445 feet, more than four times the sight distance. This will have a positive effect on the mobility along the Route 9 corridor as well as for those vehicles entering or exiting from Linscott Road onto the Wells Street.

North Berwick Police Safe at Home Initiative



The North Berwick Police Department prides itself on not only representing the values of our Community, but also serving the needs of the Citizens of North Berwick. Over the past decade North Berwick has seen an increase in both population and industry – people want to live and work here because it encapsulates their values - dedication, perseverance, honesty, and most importantly – Family. Values hardly change – we are taught them at a young age and as we grow so does our pride in those very values. While values may stay the same, the needs of a community may change; over time issues may arise that make us rethink an approach to a problem.

2020 has presented us with unprecedented problems – problems that have affected nearly every aspects of our lives: home, work, school. The COVID-19 Pandemic has placed added pressure on parents as this disease has forced families to choose between sending their children to school or working with the “remote” work from home option. It is the “remote” option that has created added stressors for parents who have to go to work and focus on their job, but also try to keep one ear to what is going on at home.

The North Berwick Police Department has always provided relief and a sense of security to people who leave their homes unattended for extended periods of

time by conducting daily property checks and alerting the homeowner if anything seems awry. Last year we implemented our Peace of Mind Project. Developed by our Administrative Assistant, Wendi Daudelin, the Peace of Mind Project is a daily “check-in” procedure that helps our elderly, special needs, and disabled residents allowing them to remain connected to first responders. Our goal is to provide peace of mind to our residents and their families that while they may be living on their own they certainly are not alone.

To accompany our Peace of Mind Program we have developed our Safe at Home Initiative. The Safe at Home Initiative is a way to provide a sense of ease to parents who may have children home alone while they are at work. All our programs are entirely voluntary – should a parent wish to enroll they simply need to contact the North Berwick Police Department. We will gather some basic information – name, address, contact phone – but also some more specific info – number of kids at home, any vehicles in the driveway, etc. Each day while on patrol Officers will keep an extra watch on these homes and if something seems out of the ordinary it will be investigated and you will be contacted. Officers will also try and make it a point to stop and speak with your children – putting a name to the face and reassuring them that if there is a problem we will be there to help.

COVID 19

As the world continues to battle the COVID 19 virus, The Town of North Berwick continues to monitor the COVID-19 virus and its potential impact in our community. In keeping with Governor Mill’s State of Emergency Order, our goal is to ensure the safety of our employees and our residents in the most responsible ways possible. It is important to avoid the need to shut down entirely through unintended exposure to the virus. We are erring on the side of caution in order to do our best to slow the spread of this virus. The Town Staff appreciate your patience and understanding as we serve the citizens of North Berwick through these difficult times.

Town Office Hours are Monday – Thursday 8am – 4pm and Friday 8am – 1pm. *(Please note the change in Thursday hours.)* The Town has installed a video door bell that allows the staff to communicate with residents and allow for in person services. Please remember that masks are required in any public building and stay home if you are feeling ill.

DO YOUR PART

Help Prevent the Spread of COVID-19





**NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020
POLLS OPEN FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
NO. BERWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



PLEASE OTE

**Town of North Berwick
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P.O. Box 422
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