

Highlights in this Issue

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TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

This year's budget preparation started in November of 2021 when all departments, committees and outside agencies were asked to submit their budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year with the goal of a flat or reduced budget. As with every year, we have continued to scrutinize every cost of town government in an effort to reduce and limit the costs of Town government.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending a budget that increased from the previous year with a minimal impact to the tax rate. To reduce the impact on the tax rate, the Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending utilization of reserve funds and undesignated fund balance and the Town expects to see additional tax revenue from real estate taxes and excise taxes to assist in offsetting the increase in the amount of taxation dollars needed for the budget.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is \$5,540,085.00 or a 13.56% increase from last year. Department heads made a huge effort to contain all costs while continuing the range of services provided by the Town. Labor costs as well as product cost have raised the budget this coming year. This has resulted in the operations side of the budget increasing by 8.59% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has increased 49.10%. If approved as presented, this budget will have less than a \$0.05 effect on the Tax Rate. The Town is well positioned for the increase in costs by having reserve funds to assist. The Town is also expecting higher revenues due to excise tax and taxes due to buildings and improvements. The Town is also proposing

to utilize undesignated fund balance to keep the level of taxation down.

The Town Meeting will be held on Saturday April 9, 2022. It will be a traditional Town Meeting with voting in the morning and business meeting in the afternoon. The big change is that it will be held at the North Berwick Elementary School due to a conflict with an event at the Noble High School.

Contained in the pages of this newsletter are explanations of the 5 Referendum Questions; 2 on Local Liquor Options, 2 on Zoning Ordinance Amendments and 1 on the Animal Control Ordinance. The newsletter also outlines the budget and highlights capital and major projects contained in the budget.

I encourage all citizens to review the information provided and vote whether these are in the best interest of the town as a whole. If you believe that it is, then vote YES. If you believe that this is not the best path for North Berwick, vote NO. Either way, these are important issues that should be decided by the entire town and all are encouraged to vote on Town Meeting day.

I encourage all citizens to review the newsletter in order to understand all the issues currently impacting the town. Please vote in the best interest of the Town and quality of life that we enjoy. *Dwayne*



**Town Meeting Highlights:
Referendum Questions and Elections
North Berwick Elementary School
April 9, 2022
Polls Open 8am to 1pm**



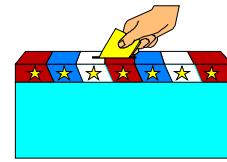
This year, the Town will open the polls at the North Berwick Elementary School, 25 Varney Road, for referendum questions at 8:00 am with polls closing at 1:00 pm. If you cannot vote during this time frame, you are encouraged to get an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk so that you have the opportunity to have your vote counted. Absentee Ballots can be obtained by contacting Chris at 676-3353 x 1. The last day to request an absentee ballot is Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

Please remember that you can bring this newsletter in to assist you in your voting.

All the proposed changes can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town's website: www.townofnorthberwick.org.



ELECTIONS



The following positions will be elected this year prior to the annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen encourage all registered voters to get out and vote.

**Selectmen, Assessor, and
Overseer of the Poor:**

For 3 years (vote for two)
Wendy Cowan
Michael Johnson, Sr.

MSAD #60 School Director:

For 3 years (vote for one)
Lauren Janousek
Todd Smith
David Sprague

Cemetery Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
(No candidates)

Water District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
Julie Fernee
Eric Gray

Sanitary District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
Jay Randall
John Randall

**Budget Committee
Member:**

For 3 years (vote for not
more than four)
Maurice Dolbec
Gregg Drew
Todd Smith

**Budget Committee
Member:**

For 3 years (vote for not
more than one)
Lynn Manley

NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The North Berwick Community Garden is now accepting applications for 2022 garden plots. There are a limited number of beds available and are rented on a first come, first served basis. The raised bed plots are 4' x 12' with an annual non-refundable cost of \$25 for residents, \$35 non-residents, and \$15 seniors (60+). Applications and information are available at nberwickcounmmunitygradens@gmail.com.

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

Statutory Local Option Election Questions:

Question #1: “Shall this municipality authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on days other than Sundays?”

Question #2: “Shall this municipality authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on Sundays?”

Intent: In 2021, the State of Maine Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages performed a review of all municipalities and the votes taken related to liquor sales and consumption in the State of Maine. During that review, it was determined that the vote taken by the Town of North Berwick in 1996 only allows for the consumption of malt liquor in Restaurants, Hotels and Clubs when in fact the intent of the vote was to allow for Class A restaurants as was voted upon by the Town in previous votes for wine and Spirits. The Town and the State, for the past 26 years have interpreted the vote to include Class A restaurants and this new determination exempts Class A restaurants which places Johnson’s Seafood and Steak’s liquor license in peril. The State offered the following paths to resolve the issue:

1. The Town does not re-vote this matter.
 - a. If that is the situation, based on the passage of LD 2120, on July 1, 2022, the Bureau would require Johnson’s to surrender its Class A Restaurant license.
2. The Town does not re-vote this matter, but the licensee opts to change its class of license to a Restaurant license for the sale of malt liquor only before July 1, 2022.
3. The Town opts to re-vote this matter. To revote this matter, here is the process:
 - a. Title 28-A, chapter 5 governs local option votes.
See <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/28-A/title28-Ach5sec0.html>
 - b. To get this matters before the voters, section 121 provides this guidance.
See <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/28-A/title28-Asec121.html>.
 - i. Local option votes can be held at a town meeting or at any local or statewide election. Since there will be an election in November, this can be done at that time.
 - ii. Subsection 1-A is the easiest way to get this matter before the voters as your select board or council can add an agenda item to a regular meeting to vote to send this to referendum. I would suggest this process versus the petition process described in subsection 1 of this section.
 - B. Questions for the referendum ballot. This is governed by section 123. See <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/28-A/title28-Asec123.html>
 - i. For North Berwick, questions 1 and 3 are the relevant question and must appear on the agenda of the select board and the ballot exactly like this – For question 1: “Shall this municipality authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on days other than Sundays?” – For question 3: “Shall this municipality authorize the State to issue licenses for the sale of liquor to be consumed on the premises of licensed establishments on Sundays?”
 - ii. For your clarification, liquor is defined in the law as all alcohol.
 - C. Once the election is held, you must report the outcome of the local option votes by providing a certification of the votes to the Secretary of State’s office. The certification includes the date of the election, a copy of the ballot and the number of votes cast by Yes, No and blank votes.
 - D. The SOS will notify our office of the votes.

The Board of Selectmen opted to take path #3 and place the vote back before the voters of the town. Due to recent law changes by the Maine Legislature, the big change is that the towns can no longer limit the type of establishment or what type of liquor (Beer Wine, Spirits) can be served. If the Town opts to allow consumption, then it must do so for all liquor types and all establishments. The Board of Selectmen recommends that the questions be voted in the affirmative and in anticipation of the affirmative vote, have placed the Zoning Amendment Question #3 before voters to create performance standards for Drinking Establishments that could be applied for once the questions have been affirmed.

Zoning Questions:

Question #3: Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Enact Drinking Establishment Performance Standards” be enacted?

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Enact Drinking Establishment Performance Standards

The Zoning Ordinance of North Berwick, Maine, is proposed to be amended to add the following new Section 5.2.23:

5.2.23 Drinking Establishment Standards

- A. Ownership:** An operator of a Drinking Establishment who does not own his or her property and who wants to operate a Drinking Establishment shall obtain written permission from the property owner.
- B. Security and oversight requirements:**
 - 1. Alarm Systems - Drinking Establishment shall have door and window intrusion alarms with audible and police notification components.
 - 2. Exterior security lighting – Drinking Establishment shall have spot lights with motion sensors covering the full perimeter of the facility.
 - 3. Video surveillance – Drinking Establishment shall have recorded video surveillance covering the entire exterior. The recorded video surveillance shall operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Records of surveillance shall be kept for a minimum of 30 days.
 - 4. Locks – Deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and locks or bars on any other access points (e.g., windows).
- C. Compliance with health and safety codes:** The structure where a Drinking Establishment is operated shall meet all applicable requirements of the Town's building, electrical, fire, and other health safety and technical codes. The structure where a Drinking Establishment is operated shall be constructed of building materials approved by the Code Enforcement Department and Fire Chief, or their designees.
- D. Setbacks from Sensitive Uses:** Unless otherwise permitted by 28-A M.R.S. § 701, No Drinking Establishment shall be allowed within 300 feet of any existing public or private school, school dormitory, church, chapel, or parish house (each a “Sensitive Use”), with the distance measured from the main entrance of the premises of the Drinking Establishment to the main entrance of the Sensitive Use by the ordinary course of travel. Applicants for any Sensitive Use proposed within the 300-foot setback of an existing Drinking Establishment shall be required to sign a form, which may be obtained from the Code Enforcement Department, which indicates that they are aware that an existing Drinking Establishment is located within the setback area.

Intent: Due to a recent review of the Maine Liquor Laws, should the Town of North Berwick voters approve question #1 and #2, it would now require the Town to allow for all types of liquor to be served in all establishments and not limit the type of establishment if the town allows any consumption on premises. This Zoning Ordinance change establishes standards for Drinking Establishments that are consistent with other standards contained within the Zoning Ordinance.

Question #4: Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments to Revise Driveway Definition” be enacted?

**Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments
to Revise Driveway Definition**

The Zoning Ordinance of North Berwick, Maine, is proposed to be amended by removing the words shown in strikethrough form and adding the words shown in underline form to the definition of “Driveway” in Article 3, Section 3.2, as follows:

Driveway: a vehicular access-way ~~less than five hundred (500) feet in length~~ serving up to two single-family dwellings or one two-family dwelling, ~~or less, except that in the Shoreland Zoning Districts, a driveway is a~~ vehicular access-way less than five hundred (500) feet in length serving two single-family dwellings or one two-family dwelling, or less.

Intent: To remove the length restriction for a residential driveway except in the Shoreland Zoning districts as required by the State of Maine Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Law.

Animal Control Ordinance:

Question #5: Shall an ordinance entitled “Proposed Animal Control Ordinance Amendments” be enacted?

Proposed Animal Control Ordinance Amendments

The Town of North Berwick Animal Control Ordinance is proposed to be amended by removing the words shown in strikethrough form and adding the words shown in underline form, as follows:

1.10 Duty to dispose of waste: ~~It shall be a violation of this Ordinance for any owner to fail to immediately remove and dispose of any feces left by the owner’s dog on any sidewalk, street or publicly owned property.~~

~~1.10~~ 1.11 Violations: Any person found in violation of sections 1.1, 1.2, ~~and 1.3~~ or 1.10 shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$10.00 and not more than \$100.00 for each offense. Any fine collected shall inure to the Town of North Berwick.

~~1.11~~ 1.12 If any part or parts of this Ordinance are for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Intent: To amend the ordinance to require any person who owns, possesses or controls a dog to properly clean up their dog’s feces on any publicly owned property including streets, sidewalks.



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS:



BUDGET COMMITTEE FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Budget Committee has deliberated over the budget requests of the various departments, committees and agencies seeking funding from the Town of North Berwick for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee met on five occasions during the month of February and March and has recommended the FY 2023 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will increase by \$661,576.00 or a 13.56% increase, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$52,676.00. Due to expected new valuation and increased revenues, it is anticipated that approval of this budget will have a minimal impact on the tax rate, estimated at less than \$0.05 on the tax rate.

LD #1 Limitations

In January of 2005, the Maine Legislature passed a law which in effect caps the amount of taxes a Town may raise without a referendum vote. As part of every Tax Levy cap pursuant to this legislation to ensure that the Town does not exceed the cap. If the Budget Committee's recommendations are followed at Annual Town Meeting the Town of North Berwick will continue to remain under the State of Maine property tax cap by \$2,376,467.00.

Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2023:

Budget Committee Recommendations

Appropriations	\$5,540,085.00
Available Resources	
Excise Tax	\$1,087,070.00
Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$333,840.00
Des. Surplus	\$35,000.00
Misc. Fees	\$330,915.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$290,710.00
Equipment Fund	\$170,460.00
State Road Aid	\$69,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$149,275.00
ARPA/Grants	\$89,000.00
 Subtotal	 \$2,984,315.00
 Increase over FY2022	 \$52,686.00

Tax Limitation Calculations

Tax Limit	\$5,360,782.00
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Proposed Expenditures

By Department

	<u>FY23</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
Highway	\$630,115.00	\$589,420.00	6.90%
Capital Imp.	\$892,974.00	\$598,891.00	49.10%
General Gov.	\$1,130,065.00	\$1,094,490.00	3.25%
Protection	\$2,036,448.00	\$1,790,153.00	13.76%
Library	\$277,350.00	\$262,475.00	5.67%
Parks and Rec.	\$136,670.00	\$124,865.00	9.45%
Health and Social	\$295,883.00	\$280,593.00	5.45%
Other	\$44,665.00	\$41,707.00	7.09%
Debt	\$95,915.00	\$95,915.00	0.00%
TOTAL	\$5,540,085.00	\$4,878,509.00	13.56%

Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$654,955.00	\$405,000.00	61.72%
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Police	\$45,460.00	\$0.00	
Rescue	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Transfer Station	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	0.00%
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fire	\$150,559.00	\$151,891.00	-1.31%
TOTAL	\$892,974.00	\$598,891.00	49.10%

Proposed Revenues

Taxation	\$2,984,315.00	\$2,931,639.00	1.80%
State Rev. Sharing	\$290,710.00	\$173,695.00	0.00%
Excise Tax	\$1,087,070.00	\$1,000,930.00	67.37%
Equipment Fund	\$170,460.00	\$0.00	
Misc. Fees:	\$330,915.00	\$314,950.00	5.07%
Road Block Grant:	\$69,500.00	\$67,500.00	2.96%
Enterprise Fund	\$149,275.00	\$147,155.00	1.44%
Designated Surplus	\$35,000.00	\$15,000.00	233.33%
ARPA/Grants	\$89,000.00	\$0.00	
Undesignated Surplus	\$333,840.00	\$227,650.00	46.65%
TOTAL	\$5,540,085.00	\$4,878,509.00	13.56%

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed budget for FY23 calls for a 13.56% increase in funding over FY22. Although this is a very large increase over last year's budget, the Town has seen an increase in available revenues and have significant reserves to assist in the increase in the budget. Last year, the Town cut the budget in anticipation of the effect of the covid-19 pandemic on the Town. Part of that reduction was holding off on various capital expenditures that the town had reserves to fund. One of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was the need to significantly increase wages for employees to keep our staff and provide them with wages that are competitive with other communities and labor market environment. The proposed budget represents an 8.59% increase in operational costs. The capital side of the budget is an increase of 49.10% in order to meet the Town's capital needs identified in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.

Financial Health of the Town:

The Town continues to maintain a healthy fiscal approach by maintaining a fund balance equal to more than 90 days of expenditures as recommended by our auditors as well as healthy fund balances within the Town's trusts and dedicated funds. In addition, department heads continue to develop budgets that provide the essential services requested by residents in the most effective way and at the lowest possible cost. The Town also produces a Capital Improvement Plan to provide a means for evaluating facility and infrastructure projects and the mechanism for reviewing operating budget projects. The five-year Capital Improvement Program is reviewed and revised yearly with ten-year projections included to anticipate and plan for projects involving public facility improvements and major equipment purchases. By planning and maintaining the town's infrastructure, facilities and equipment, it balances the needs and the Town's financial ability on both a short and long term basis.

Expenditures:

In terms of expenditures, the Town department heads have made a concerted effort to produce budgets that fund the services demanded by citizens at the lowest possible cost while still maintaining our capital equipment and providing competitive salaries and benefits for our employees. Significant increases in costs include the following:

Salaries: This year, the Board of Selectmen has produced a budget that increases wages across all positions for our Town employees. After reviewing the labor market and where the Town ranked as to different positions, it was determined to increase wages and in some instances, substantial wage increases to keep the town competitive in this tight labor market. Minimum COLA increase – 4%, Police Contract – 3%.

Rescue: Increase per diem wages to \$18.00 for EMT's and \$24.00 for Paramedics - \$70,000.00 increase to budget.

Insurances: Health premiums increased by 2%, however, new hires and employees opting to take insurance has also increased health insurance costs.

Retirement: MPERS has increased the percentage that the Town must contribute for its employees. This resulted in a 6.5% increase for regular employees. With Salary increases, increases to departments averaged around 14%.

Dispatch: The Town negotiated a new 10 year contract with the City of Sanford in 2019. The Town had been paying well below normal costs for dispatch over the previous contract. The new contract brings the Town to parity with the other communities dispatched, however this increased the town's cost over the next five years from \$84,000 to \$150,500.00. Approximately \$14,000.00 a year increase.

Hydrant Rental: Pursuant to State PUC regulations, the Town must pay 30% of the operating budget of the Water District when there are Hydrants on the water system. With recent bonding to cover Capital Projects and a change in operations, the town share increased \$48,600.00 in FY22 and an additional \$21,000.00 in FY23.

Fire: The Fire Department will move from a stipend and point system to a per hour rate for our firefighters. This provides proper compensation to Firefighters. Estimated increase of \$5,000.00.

Police: It is proposed to add an additional officer to the Police Department this year. This has been contemplated for the past 4 years and this year the Town was able to secure a \$125,000.00 grant to assist in creating this position. The new sergeant position will allow the Police Department to have a supervisor available every day and reduce the reliance on Reserve Officers especially on the weekends. It will also provide for 2 person coverage on all shifts with the exception of 3am to 7am. Estimated \$125,000.00 increase to budget.

Mowing: The Town has been operating under the same mowing contract for the past 12 years with no yearly increase in cost. This year, the new 3 year contract with Gilpatrick Property Services will result in an increase in cost to cover the mowing needs of the Town. Estimated increase in cost of \$18,000.00 a year.

Library: Increase in Labor costs to the Library will result in \$14,875.00 increase in the budget.

Capital Projects:

There are various pieces of equipment scheduled to be purchased over the next year and they are detailed within this newsletter.

Revenues:

Excise Tax: The Town continues to see increases in excise tax collection year over year. The estimated increase in excise tax for the next budget season is \$105,000.00.

State Revenue Sharing: The State has committed to restoring the State Revenue Sharing to 5% of the collected sales tax back to the municipalities. This year that is slated to go to 4.5% resulting in an increase of Revenue Sharing to the town of approximately \$51,000.00.

Misc. Revenue: Increase in Code Enforcement Office fee collections will result in an increase in Misc. Fee revenue of approximately \$15,000.00.

Equipment Fund: The Town's Equipment fund will be utilized to offset costs for the new Public Works Truck and Police Cruiser. This fund continues to grow due to the increases in Excise Tax year over year.

PAYT: The PAYT program continues to remain healthy with over \$272,000.00 fund balance. Although it is expected that year over year growth will transition to break even, mainly due to the newly signed Hauling agreement with Casella Waste, the need for a price increase in bag prices looks at least 5-7 years out. That will mean bag prices will remain the same for 15 - 17 years since last increase. The initial bag price lasted 13 years without an increase.

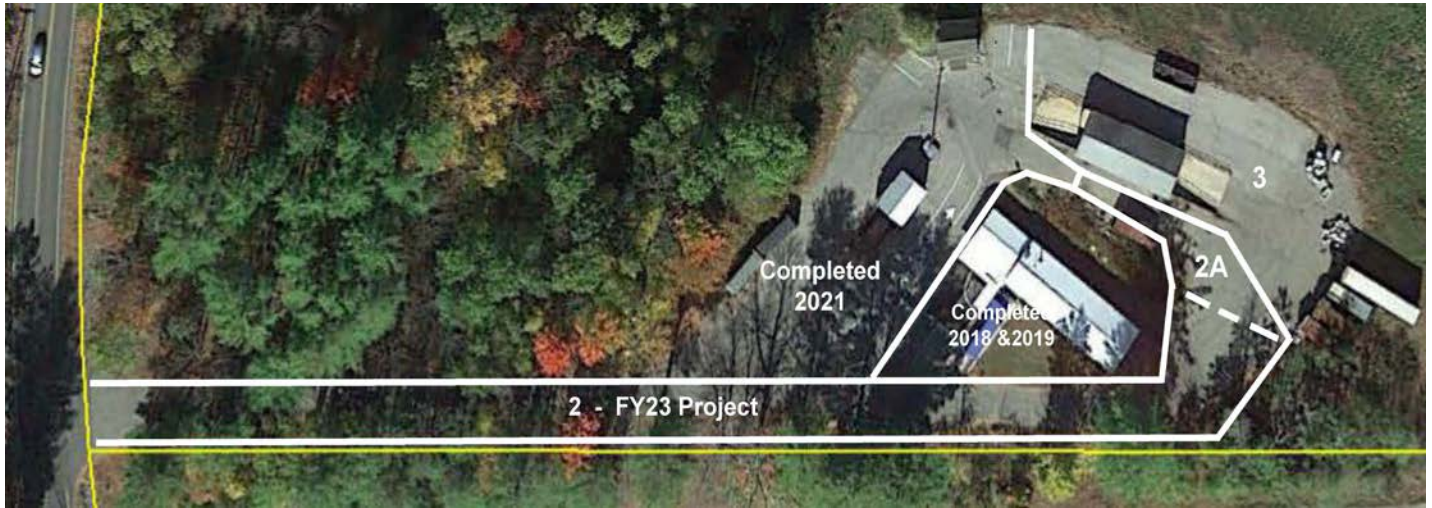
ARPA and Grants: The Town continues to seek grant opportunities to assist in the funding of Town projects. This year, the Town was able to secure a \$125,000.00 grant for the additional Police Officer proposed in the budget. These grants funds will be utilized over the next two years to assist in offsetting tax increases. In addition, the town received a significant amount of funds from the Federal Government as part of the covid-19 relief package approved by Congress. The Board seeks to gain approval to utilize these funds for one-time projects and to offset some other costs within the budget.

Undesignated Fund Balance: The Town's Undesignated Fund Balance continues to grow and that allows for the town to utilize the funds for one-time capital projects without impacting the amount needed from taxation to fund governmental expenses.

Taxes: The Town anticipates an increase in valuation due to the amount of construction that has taken place within the Town over the past year. This increased valuation will result in additional tax dollars that will offset increase. Estimated increase in taxation of \$50,000.00

FY23 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Transfer Station: It is planned to continue the three year project to repave the Transfer Station. The first phase was completed this past fall and consisted of pavement removal, regrading to correct drainage issues and then paving of the area around the 2 compactors. The second phase to be completed this year will consist of paving the entrance road coming into the facility. The third phase will be the area around the demolition and metal container building. The cost is estimated to be \$42,000.00. The Town will be hiring Libby-Scott paving to perform the necessary repairs.



Police Department:



Police Cruiser: This year, the police department is requesting a replacement cruiser. Once again, the Police Department is planning on purchasing an SUV. The Town currently maintains 5 SUV's in our fleet and we have found that the maintenance costs are significantly less than the standard cruiser even as the vehicles age. The SUV model also allows for the department to respond to emergencies in all types of weather. This replacement cruiser will replace the first SUV purchased by the Town in 2015.

The increase in cost this year can be attributed to the overall increase in vehicles in the market place from the manufacturer. Estimated cost - \$45,460.00.

Public Works:

Plow Truck It is planned to replace the 1996 L9000 Ford Dump/Plow Truck this year with a new Western Star 4700sf single axle Dump/Plow Truck. The Town replaces plow trucks based on a 25 year replacement schedule and the current truck is currently 26 years old. The Board proposes to utilize funds in our Equipment Fund, \$125,000.00, along with \$125,000.00 of Undesignated Fund Balance funds to purchase the new plow truck at an estimated cost of \$250,000.00.



Fire Department:

This year there are four CIP projects for the Fire Department:

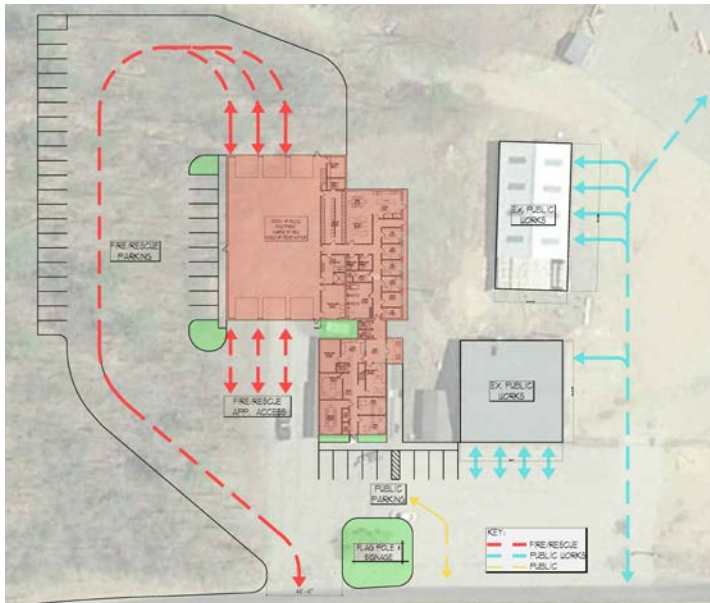
Pumper: Ten years ago, the Town authorized the purchase of a new fire pumper to be financed over a ten-year period. This is the tenth of ten payments on the bond for the fire pumper.



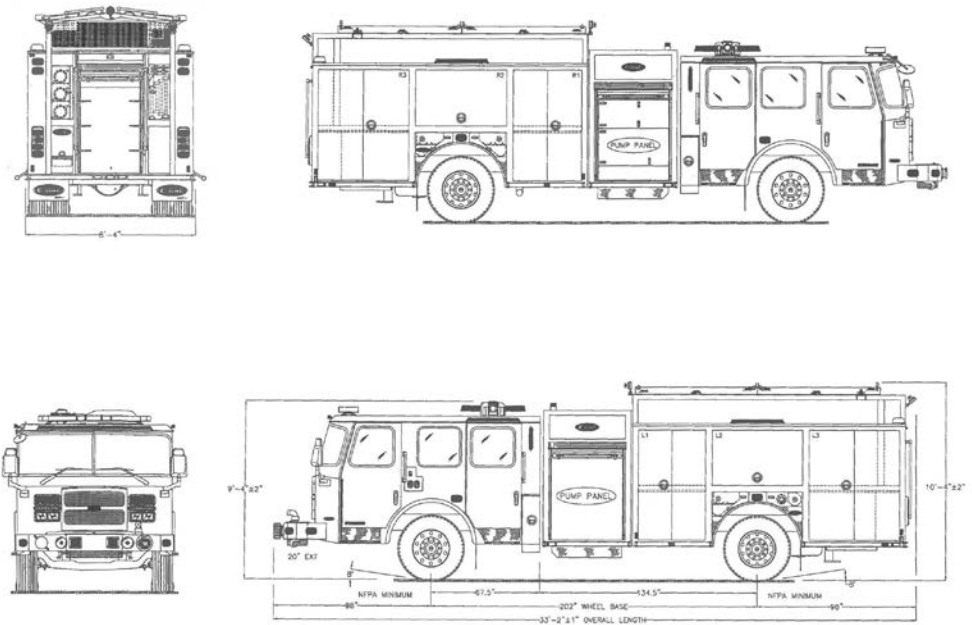
Tanker: At the 2015 Town Meeting, the voters approved the purchase of a tanker that holds 3,000 gallons of water for utilization in the area of town currently not served by the hydrant system. This is the seventh payment on the 10-year bond to fund the purchase of the tanker



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. The Town is proposing to appropriate \$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.



Pumper: For the past 2 years, the Town has set aside funds into a reserve account for the replacement of the 1993 Fire Pumper. The Town typically replaces the Fire Trucks on a 25 – 30 year replacement schedule and the current pumper is 29 years old and currently out of service due to a significant amount of work that would be necessary to get the vehicle operating properly. It is planned to replace the pumper with a new E-One Typhoon Pumper which is similar to the pumper purchased by the Town 10 years ago. The Town is proposing an additional \$40,000.00 appropriation be made into the reserve account and to take \$200,000.00 from Undesignated Fund Balance to be used toward the \$665,000.00 purchase price. It is anticipated that the town will finance the remaining \$345,000.00 through either a 10 year bond or lease agreement. This will keep yearly payments around the \$40,000.00 appropriation currently established within the budget frame work..



Voters will notice that the Board of Selectmen is seeking permission for the ability to either enter into a lease agreement or issue a bond for the purchase of the truck. With the current economic state, the Board would like to have both options available to determine the best possible vehicle for the Town at the time of purchase.

ROAD PROJECTS

FY2023 PROPOSED ROAD CIP

PROJECTS: The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget for this year is proposed to be \$400,000.00. In addition to making the \$101,205.00 payment on the road bond approved ten years ago, the following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

Lower Main Street: Due to the Water District needing to replace their water mains on Lower Main Street, the Town is proposing to assist the Water District on this project by reconstructing the first 750 feet of Lower Main Street after the installation of the replacement water Lines. Estimated cost of the project is: \$67,500.00.

Ford Quint Road: It is planned to perform drainage improvements and resurface the section of Ford Quint Road from Valley Road intersection to the bridge or approximately 9500 feet Road. Estimated cost of the project is: \$210,100.00.

Madison Street: It planned to utilize the remaining Road Capital funds, after the Lower Main and Ford Quint Projects are completed, to resurface a section of Madison Street. It is planned to start at the Route4 & 9 intersection and pave to the bridge. The Town will budget to complete Madison Street in the FY24 budget.

COVID 19 – ARPA FUNDING

As part of the Federal Coronavirus financial package, the Town of North Berwick has received \$500,000.00 to be utilized towards governmental projects. Pursuant to the Federal guidelines, the Town has until 2024 to expend the funds and guidance is recommending that the Town Meeting approve the projects to be funded.

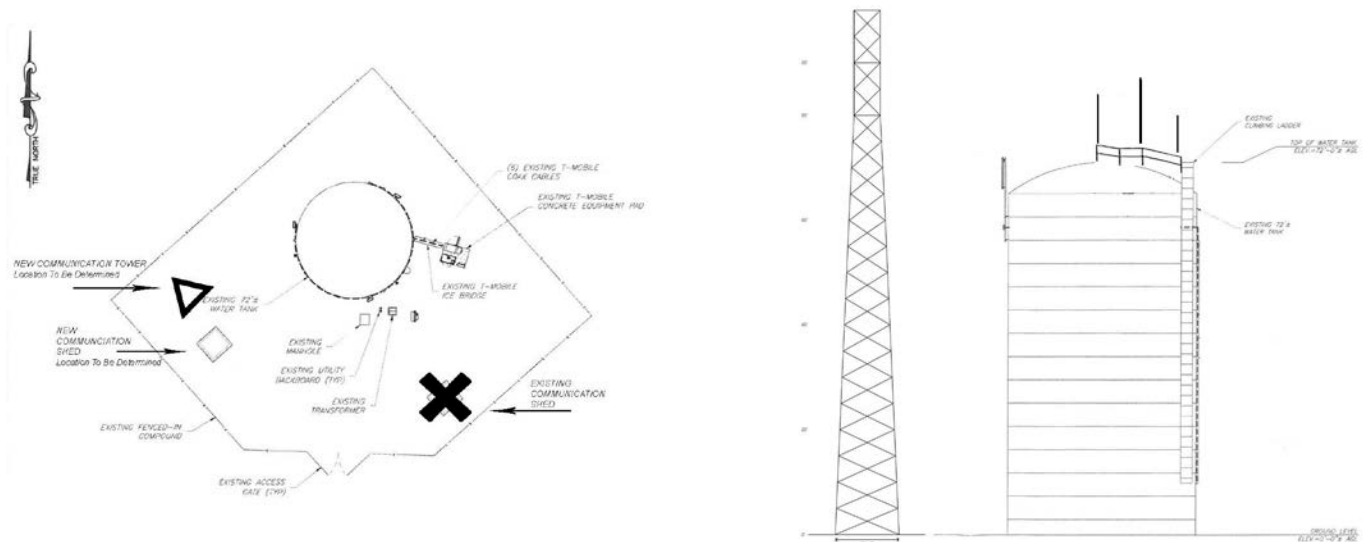
Premium Pay: The Board of Selectmen would like to provide premium pay for those employees who worked during the pandemic risking their health and safety to provide services to our residents. The plan is to provide \$2,000.00 to full time employees, \$1,000.00 to part-time employees with a permanent schedule and \$500.00 to part time employees without a schedule. The Board is also proposing to utilize \$26500.00 to offset increases in pay to the Rescue squad members who continue to deal with covid-19 patients. The estimated cost will be \$86,500.00 with \$6,000.00 coming from Undesignated Fund Balance.

Sanitary and Water District Projects: One of the categories that ARPA intended to fund are Sanitary and Water projects. The Selectmen reached out to both Districts and are proposing to fund the following projects presented to the Town by both districts.

Sanitary District: The replacement of the Muffin Monster which pulverizes material before entering into the lagoon treatment system and Aerator membrane replacement in lagoon #1 that improves the quality of the diffused air, leading to better oxygenation in the District's lagoons. Cost - \$80,000.00

Water District: Replacement and the upgrading of the mains on Lower Main Street in the vicinity of Hussey Seating. Cost \$80,000.00

Communications Project: The Town has had an issue with communications for our Fire, Rescue and Police Department for a number of years. Over the past few years, this issue has become increasingly problematic for the Fire and Rescue Squads. The main issue is the presence of Bauneg Beg Mountain in our town which does not allow for radio signals to reach the backside of the mountain and creating areas where the radio signal is weak or non-existent. After much review, it has been determined that the best solution at this point is to increase the height of our antennas on the Water District property and install additional repeaters. We also need to install a generator for power failures as we currently rely on the Police Department bringing a portable generator to site during storm events. Due to the construction of the Water Tower, additional antennae cannot be collocated on the roof and a separate tower will need to be installed to gain the height required. In addition, the County of York will be upgrading the Blueberry Ridge Communications Tower at an estimated cost of \$1,400,000.00 which will assist with Fire and Rescue Communications on the backside of Bauneg Beg Mountain. Estimated cost of North Berwick project is \$197,000.00.





ADOPT A CEMETERY PROGRAM



The Adopt a Cemetery program is designed to save taxpayers money by not having to hire companies and individuals to maintain the Veteran's cemeteries in the Community. The program is designed where individuals, families or organizations can adopt a cemetery and maintain that cemetery between May and October of every year. State Law dictates that "municipality in which said burying ground is located shall keep in good condition and repair, all graves, headstones, monuments or markers designating the burial place of said Revolutionary soldiers or sailors or soldiers or sailors who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war and shall keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on those graves from May 1st to September 30th of each year."

All those interested in this program are asked to send in the form prior to April 15, 2022.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2022 ADOPT-A-CEMETERY PROGRAM**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Organization (if applicable): _____

I wish to _____ Adopt Cemetery # _____

_____ Willing to have the Town assign a cemetery

Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Map available at the Town Office)

Whitehouse Murray(#4), Frost(#5), Gupill (#7), Grant-Hayes (#9), Libby-Hanson (#12), Dillingham(#14), Stackpole(#15), Brackett(#20), Pray (#21), Hurd(#22), Rogers (#23), Fenderson(#25), Remick(#26), Hurd-Staple(#27), Fernald(#28), Libby(#29), Hanscom-Brackett(#30), Goodwin(#32), Abbott(#33), Nowell(#34), Chadbourne (#37), Nowell(#40), Junkins (#47), Weymouth(#54), Johnson-Nutter(#56), Fernald (#57), Clark(#58), Stillings(#59), Hall(#60), Brackett(#67), Hanscom(#70), Abbott(#73), Staples(#77), Staple-Hurd(#78), Young(#88), Randall(#98), Hubbard(#99), Twombly(#104), Chadbourne(#107), Hill(#109), Hartford-Gupill(#120), Quint(#124), Ford-Goodwin(#129), Allen (#130), Ford (#131), Billings(#136), Ford(#138), Morrill(#143), Grant(#147), Cutts(#155), Weymouth(#159), Hammond(#161), Applebee(#164), Hurd(#166), Nunn-Merrill(#167), Weymouth(#174), Ricker (#181), Abbott (#183), Breton (#186), Chadbourne(#187)and Wood(#188).

TAX CLUB

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the continuation of a Tax Club for the 2023 Fiscal Year. The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their property taxes over the course of the year through a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been completed and commitment set.

The Tax Club works very similar to a Christmas Club Account in that your tax bill is evenly divided over the year into a number of payments that the property owner chooses so long as all taxes paid have been received by June 15 of the fiscal year. In most cases, the payments would be divided over no more than a ten month period starting in September and ending in June. The start date of September is used due to the setting of commitment

by the Board to determine the actual taxes owed by the property owner. The payments are made without any interest charges accruing so long as the payments are received in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The agreement is written to reflect the property owner's budget. If the property owner does not keep up with the payments then all interest that would have been due must be paid in full.

Any property owner who would like additional information or would like to join the tax club should fill out the following application and drop it off at the Town Office and someone will contact you to finalize your application:



TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK TAX CLUB



RULES AND REGULATIONS: The Tax Club of the Town of North Berwick will be conducted on a payment plan approved by the Town and the individual taxpayer not to exceed 10 months in duration. Taxpayers must make payments according to the Tax Club coupon book issued to them no later than the 15th day of the month in order to qualify for the "No Interest" benefit.

Payments will be made at the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, 21 Main Street, North Berwick, Maine 03906 or mailed to the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, P.O. Box 422, North Berwick, Maine 03906.

Payments received after the due date will be subject to paying all back interest and fees if applicable.

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Account Number: _____

Map: _____ Lot: _____

I have read the above and do hereby agree to join the Town of North Berwick Tax Club.

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Witnessed: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN

Fiscal Year: 20____ Tax Bill: \$_____

Number of Payments: _____

Amount per Payment: \$_____

PARKS AND RECREATION

North Berwick Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce that, **SUMMER CAMP IS BACK!** The last couple years have looked much different and we've offered alternatives, however, we are ready to be back to a bit of normalcy!

Summer Camp:

-Ages: 5-13

-Full Day camp - **9:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday thru Friday**

- Dates - July 4 to August 12 (Starting July 5th, no camp on July 4)

Registrations: Registrations begin April 10, 2022 or attend Registration nights on April 14, 2022 or May 12, 2022 (if necessary) from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Community Center.



Cost: Cost will be \$875.00 for North Berwick Residents and \$975.00 for Non-Residents. Deposit of \$50.00 must accompany the application and the deposit will be applied to total cost of camp. Payment of the total cost must be received by June 22, 2022. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Non-payment may result in the loss of your camper's spot at summer camp.

Please note that the Town limits Summer Camp to 75 campers. The Town will create a waiting list once the 75 camper limit has been reached. The Town will only accept non-resident applications after the first registration date, April 14, 2022.

Parent Information Night: June 22, 2022

Mandatory for parents with new campers. As a returning camper/parent, Parent Information Night is not mandatory, but full camp payment is due by June 22nd, 2022 (parent info night). Kaylyn will be available between 4:00-5:30pm that night to take final payments. Payment **MUST** be paid in full by June 22nd, 2022. If not, you could lose your spot at camp.

Before and After Care:

Before Care available 7:00 am - 9:00 am.

After Care available 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Packages:

1. HOURLY Drop-IN Service:

Pay by the hour on a weekly basis. - Cost \$5:00 per hour with full hour charges (example 15 minutes of before or after care will result in a \$5.00 charge)

2. Purchase the Before Care (7am-9am) package:

Cost is \$200.00 (\$3.33 per hour) due at camp signup. This package covers you every day from 7-9am and you will **not** owe anything on Fridays unless other charges are incurred for any after care.

3. Purchase the After Care (3pm-5pm) package:

Cost is \$200.00 (\$3.33 per hour) due at camp signup. This package covers you every day from 3-5pm and you will **not** owe anything on Fridays unless other charges are incurred for any before care.

4. Purchase the Before and After Care package:

Cost is \$360.00 (\$3 per hour) due at camp signup. This package covers you every day from 7-9am and 3-5pm and you will **not** be billed for any dues the rest of the summer.

Information: For more information go to Town website: <https://www.townofnorthberwick.org/parks-recreation/news/summer-camp-2022> or contact Kaylyn Bell, North Berwick Parks and Recreation Director at 676-3206 or nbrec@maine.rr.com

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022
ELECTIONS & REFERENDUM QUESTIONS – 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

BUSINESS MEETING – BEGINS AT 1:30 PM

NORTH BERWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(PLEASE NOTE LOCATION OF TOWN MEETING)

GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

Town of North Berwick
21 Main Street
P.O. Box 422
North Berwick, Maine 03906

www.townofnorthberwick.com

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