

Highlights in this Issue

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TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

Well this has been a very different year managing the Covid-19 restrictions along with keeping the essential services provided by the town operating in a fashion so as not to disrupt citizen's lives. I want to thank all of the Town's employees who have done a fantastic job of adapting to the changes during the pandemic and keeping everything operating in the best possible manner.

This year's budget preparation started back in November of 2020 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 is decreased from the previous year with no impact to the rate. To reduce the impact on the tax rate, the Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending utilization of undesignated fund balance and designated 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 \$4,878,509.00 or a 3.56% decrease from last year. Department heads made a huge effort to contain all costs at last year's levels while continuing the range of services provided by the Town. This was done to limit any increase to taxpayers due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has resulted in the operations side of the budget increasing by 5.42% from last year. The Capital

Improvement side of the budget has decreased 40.03%. If approved as presented, this budget will not have any effect on the Tax Rate. The Town is 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.

With the COVID-19 pandemic conditions and continuing restrictions on the size of indoor gatherings, the Board of Selectmen has decided to move the FY22 Town Meeting to June 8, 2021, instead of the traditional first Saturday in April. After much consideration, the Board of Selectmen will once again hold Town Meeting as a Referendum (Ballot Vote) Town Meeting that will coincide with the MSAD 60 School Budget vote on Tuesday June 8, 2021. It is planned to hold a normal open Town Meeting in April of 2022 for the following fiscal year (FY23) pending the COVID-19 situation.

Voters will act on the 10 Budget Referendum questions as well as elect officers for the next year and the candidates are listed within the newsletter for voter consideration.

I encourage all citizens to review all 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
June 8, 2021
Polls Open 8am to 8pm**



With the COVID-19 pandemic conditions and continuing restrictions on the size of indoor gatherings, the Board of Selectmen has decided to move the FY22 Town Meeting to June 8, 2021 instead of the traditional first Saturday in April. After much consideration, the Board of Selectmen will once again hold Town Meeting as a Referendum (Ballot Vote) Town Meeting that will coincide with the MSAD 60 School Budget vote on Tuesday June 8, 2021. It is planned to hold a normal open Town Meeting in April of 2022 for the following fiscal year (FY23) pending the the COVID-19 situation.

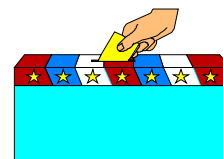
This year, the Town will open the polls at the North Berwick Elementary School, 25 Varney Road, for referendum questions at 8:00 am with polls closing at 8:00 pm. If you cannot vote during this time frame, you are encouraged to get an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk so that you have the opportunity to have your vote counted. Absentee Ballots can be obtained by contacting Chris at 676-3353 x 1. The last day to vote via absentee ballot is Thursday, June 3, 2021.

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)

Jonathan Hall

Michael Johnson, Jr.

MSAD #60 School Director:

For 3 years (vote for one)

Mary Byrom

Kathleen Stanton-Walen

MSAD #60 School Director:

For 2 years (vote for one)

Lynn E. Manley

Cemetery Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for one)

Jeremiah Johnson

Water District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)

Nelson Begin

Anita Johnson

Sanitary District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)

Daniel Burbank

Owen Thyng

**Budget Committee
Member:**

For 3 years (vote for not
more than four)

Stan Cowan

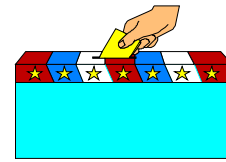
Marcus Gale

Elizabeth Glidden

Jeremiah Johnson



BUDGET QUESTIONS



Questions 1 – 7 are the procedural questions that are presented at every town meeting in order for the Town to function on a day to day basis and to establish the zero-based budgeting framework that the town works under.

Questions 8 and 9 is the Impact Fee Budget. This is described in detail within the pages of the newsletter.

Question 10 is the budget question that adopts the budget framework for the ensuing year as recommended by the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. All of the department costs, projects, expenditures and revenues are described in greater detail throughout the pages of this newsletter and the Board of Selectmen encourage all residents to read through the pages of the newsletter to understand the budget and all that it entails. The Budget Committee has completed their review of the budget and they along with the Selectmen are encouraging voters to approve the budget as presented. We understand that this is very unorthodox and we are in high hopes that Annual Town Meeting will continue as usual in the years to come once the ability to meet again is allowed.

REFERENDUM QUESTION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE – ZOOM MEETING (826 6704 7648)

A Zoom Public Hearing will be held on the Referendum Questions for Town Meeting on May 25, 2021 at 6:30p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to review the 10 Budget Questions for voters to have an understanding of the questions to be voted upon on June 8, 2021. The Zoom number is 826 6704 7648. Video will be available and residents may ask questions regarding the Budget. All Residents are encouraged to log on to the Zoom Meeting and participate.

REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS:

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 1, 2021 Delinquent: October 2, 2021
Balance Due: May 6, 2022 Delinquent: May 7, 2022
Interest: 6.00%

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ALLOWS THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ACCEPT TAX PAYMENTS AND ESTABLISHES THE DUE DATES FOR TAX COLLECTION FOR THE YEAR. THE TOWN HAS TRADITIONALLY ESTABLISHED TAX DUE DATES AS THE FIRST FRIDAY IN OCTOBER AND THE FIRST FRIDAY IN MAY AND THIS YEAR CONTINUES THAT TRADITION. THE INTEREST RATE ESTABLISHED IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATE OF MAINE TREASURER'S RECOMMENDATION.

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.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION DIRECTS THAT ALL UNUSED AND EXCESS EXCISE TAX COLLECTED IS DEPOSITED INTO THE EQUIPMENT FUND FOR THE FUTURE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE TOWN.

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.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ALLOWS THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO UTILIZE FUNDS IN THE FUND BALANCE, UP TO \$40,000.00, FOR UNFORESEEN PURCHASE OR REPAIR OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT WITHOUT HAVING TO HOLD A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.

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.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ALLOWS THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO ACCEPT GIFTS, PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN IN THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR.

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.

Explanatory Note: The Town voted to designate the Canal Street Affordable Tax Increment Financing District and adopt the development program for the District at the Special Town Meeting held on November 28, 2006.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

Explanation: THIS QUESTION AUTHORIZES THE TOWN TO FILE THE NECESSARY REPORTING ON THE CANAL STREET TIF TO THE STATE OF MAINE AND TO EXPEND THE FUNDS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ESTABLISHES THE ZERO BASED BUDGETING FRAMEWORK THAT THE TOWN WORKS UNDER AND BRINGS THE AMOUNT REMAINING FROM THE SPECIFIED ACCOUNTS TO BE UTILIZED IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

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


Excise Taxes	\$1,000,930.00
Miscellaneous Fee Revenues	\$314,950.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$173,695.00
State Road Bond	\$67,500.00
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	\$210,000.00
BE'TE Reimbursement	<u>\$2,000,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,767,075.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.


BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION AUTHORIZES THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT NEEDED TO FUND TOWN GOVERNMENT BY THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT IS ANTICIPATED, THEREBY LOWER THE AMOUNT NEEDED FROM PROPERTY TAXATION.

ANNUAL REPORT



TOWN OF
NORTH BERWICK



For The Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019
And ending June 30, 2020

And the
2021 Budget Meeting Warrant

Town Reports

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, May 29, 2021. Town Reports will also be available at Referendum Voting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021.

QUESTION 8: To see if the Town will 1.) authorize the Town Manager in Conjunction with the Great Works Regional Land Trust to apply, on behalf of the Town, for federal financing assistance under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Public Law 88-578 for the purchase and stewardship of Bauneg Beg Mountain Recreation Area; and further authorize the Town Manager to enter into the Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement with the State subsequent to federal approval of the project, 2.) appropriate \$80,000.00 from the Open Space Impact Fee Fund to assist with the purchase of the property and \$20,000.00 from the Recreation Impact Fee Fund to assist with the stewardship of the property in conjunction with the Great Works Regional Land Trust and 3.) the town in conjunction with the Great Works Regional Land Trust will be obligated to pay all costs of the project “up-front” which will be repaid by federal reimbursement.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THE TOWN AND GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST HAVE PARTNERED TO APPLY FOR A GRANT FROM THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND TO PURCHASE OVER 50 ACRES ON BAUNEG BEG MOUNTAIN NEAR THE EXISTING BAUNEG BEG MTN CONSERVATION AREA. THIS GRANT REQUIRES MATCHING FUNDS SO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND BUDGET COMMITTEE ARE PROPOSING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$80,000.00 FROM THE OPEN SPACE IMPACT FEE FUND TO ASSIST WITH THE PURCHASE OF THE PROPERTY AND \$20,000.00 FROM THE RECREATION IMPACT FEE FUND TO ASSIST WITH THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE PROPERTY IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST. NOTE THAT MONEY IN THIS QUESTION COMES FROM IMPACT FEES AND NOT TAXES. THIS QUESTION AUTHORIZES THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY THE LWCF GRANT AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT SHOULD THE GRANT BE APPROVED.

QUESTION 9: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$37,000.00 to be funded by the Recreation Impact Fee Fund for Capital Improvements at the North Berwick Community Center, Canal Street Park and Elroy Day Canoe Launch.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION AUTHORIZES THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO UTILIZE \$37,000.00 FROM THE RECREATION IMPACT FEE FUND FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER, CANAL STREET PARK AND ELROY DAY CANOE LAUNCH

QUESTION 10: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,878,509.00 to be funded in part with \$147,155.00 from Enterprise Fund, and \$227,650.00 from Undesignated Fund Balance for the Town of North Berwick FY2022 Fiscal Year Budget.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION APPROVES THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN FOR THE ENSUING FISCAL YEAR. WITHIN THE PAGES OF THIS NEWSLETTER, THE BUDGET ALONG WITH THE SPECIFIC PROJECTS ARE DESCRIBED FOR VOTERS TO UNDERSTAND THE BUDGET. THE BUDGET WAS DEVELOPED TO NOT REQUIRE A TAX INCREASE FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.



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 four occasions during the month of April and has recommended the FY 2022 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will decrease by \$179,816.00 or a 3.55% decrease, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$40,329.00. Due to expected new valuation, it is anticipated that approval of this budget will have a no impact 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 \$2,000,954.00.

Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2022:

Budget Committee Recommendations

Appropriations	\$4,878,509.00
Available Resources	
Excise Tax	\$1,000,920.00
Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$227,650.00
Des. Surplus	\$15,000.00
Misc. Fees	\$314,950.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$173,695.00
Equipment Fund	\$0.00
State Road Aid	\$67,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$147,155.00
Impact Fees	\$137,000.00
Subtotal	\$2,931,639.00
Increase over FY2020	\$40,319.00

Tax Limitation Calculations

Tax Limit	\$4,932,593.00
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Proposed Expenditures

By Department

	<u>FY21</u>	<u>FY22</u>	<u>% Inc(Dec)</u>
Highway	\$576,575.00	\$589,420.00	2.23%
Capital Imp.	\$998,748.00	\$598,891.00	-40.03%
General Gov.	\$1,037,765.00	\$1,094,490.00	5.47%
Protection	\$1,646,290.00	\$1,790,153.00	8.74%
Library	\$262,765.00	\$262,475.00	-0.11%
Parks and Rec.	\$123,675.00	\$124,865.00	0.96%
Health and Social	\$273,945.00	\$280,593.00	2.43%
Other	\$42,657.00	\$41,707.00	-2.23%
Debt	\$95,915.00	\$95,915.00	0.00%
TOTAL	\$5,508,335.00	\$4,878,509.00	-3.56%

Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$578,670.00	\$405,000.00	-30.01%
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
Police	\$42,080.00	\$0.00	
Rescue	\$33,400.00	\$0.00	
Transfer Station	\$1,500.00	\$42,000.00	2700.00%
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fire	\$153,098.00	\$151,891.00	-0.01%
TOTAL	\$998,748.00	\$598,891.00	-40.03%

Proposed Revenues

Taxation	\$2,891,310.00	\$2,931,639.00	1.39%
State Rev. Sharing	\$174,000.00	\$173,695.00	0.00%
Excise Tax	\$911,075.00	\$1,000,930.00	8.97%
Equipment Fund	\$70,750.00	\$0.00	
Misc. Fees:	\$400,315.00	\$314,950.00	-21.32%
Road Block Grant:	\$70,500.00	\$67,500.00	-4.25%
Enterprise Fund	\$133,985.00	\$147,155.00	-8.95%
Designated Surplus	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	33.33%
Undesignated Surplus	\$396,400.00	\$227,650.00	-42.57%
TOTAL	\$5,508,335.00	\$4,787,519.00	-3.55%

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed budget for FY22 calls for a 3.55% decrease in funding over FY21. The Board of Selectmen's goal was to establish a budget lower than last year in an effort to keep the tax burden off of taxpayers during the covid-19 pandemic. The proposed budget represents a 5.42% increase in operational costs. The capital side of the budget is decreasing 40.03% 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 – 3%

Rescue: The change in State Law for Earned Time has increased salary costs. Additional cost for EMA Director due to COVID-19.

Insurances: Health premiums remained the same, however, new hires and employees opting to take insurance has increased health insurance costs approximately 12%. Worker's Compensation and Property Casualty premiums are expected to increase 13%.

Retirement: MPERS has increased the percentage that the Town must contribute for its employees. This resulted in a 8% increase for regular employees. With new hires in the Police Department and a change in MPERS that results in the town having to pay a penalty for retired in place employees, there is an increase of nearly 85% in department retirement costs. Fire Department retirement cost have increased due to new volunteers.

Dispatch: The Town negotiated a new 10 year contract with the City of Sanford. The Town had been paying well below normal costs for dispatch over the past 5 years. The new contract brings the Town to parity with the other communities dispatched, however this will increase 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. With recent bonding to cover Capital Projects and a change in operations, the town will see our share increase \$48,600 this year and an additional \$21,000.00 next year

Cost Savings:

Utilities: The Town entered into long term electrical contracts that reduced our electrical costs – \$0.079 for all electrical accounts (4 years) and \$0.0546 for Streetlights (4 Years). Replacement of the Town's Streetlights to LED continues to result in a cost savings of approximately \$27,500.00 a year.

Capital Projects:

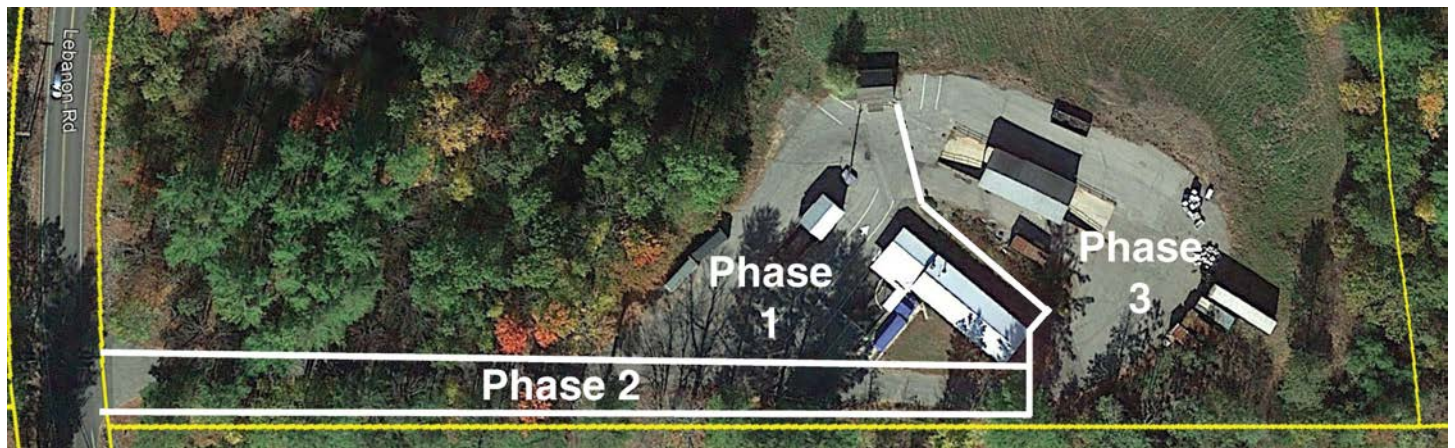
The Board has limited the capital improvements projects for the coming year to rein in spending during the covid-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the CIP plan had scheduled lower capital improvement purchases. There are various pieces of equipment scheduled to be purchased over the next year and this is detailed within this newsletter. In addition, the Town will undertake a revamping of the Town's website to make it compliant with the new ADA standards as well as providing more a modern look and features.

Revenues:

The town is anticipating receiving additional revenue from the excise tax collections as well as proposing to utilize Undesignated Fund Balance to offset revenue decreases. The BETE program collections are expected to remain constant due to the continued equipment improvements made by Pratt and Whitney and it is estimated that additional property tax revenue due to the increased residential building within the Town will increase. It is estimated that an additional \$90,000.00 in additional tax revenue and BETE reimbursements will be received. In addition, last year the Town received more BETE reimbursement than expected due to Pratt's expansion and equipment improvements. These funds were used to lessen the increase in the tax rate caused by the increases in the Town, School and County Budgets.

FY22 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Transfer Station: It is planned to begin a three year project to repave the Transfer Station. The first phase planned for this year will consist of pavement removal, regrading to correct drainage issues and then paving of the area around the 2 compactors. The cost is estimated to be \$43,000.00. The Town will be hiring Libby-Scott paving to perform the necessary repairs. The second phase will consist of the entrance road coming into the facility and the third phase will be the area around the demolition and metal container building.



FARMERS MARKET

For those citizens who enjoy the Farmer's Market, please take note - *The North Berwick Farmer's Market Begins on June 3, 2021, will be located in the Mill Field and the market will be held on Thursday afternoons from 3 pm to 6 pm.*

If you have not checked out the Farmer's Market, please consider supporting our local neighbors and small businesses and enjoy their wares and locally grown foods.

Fire Department:

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

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

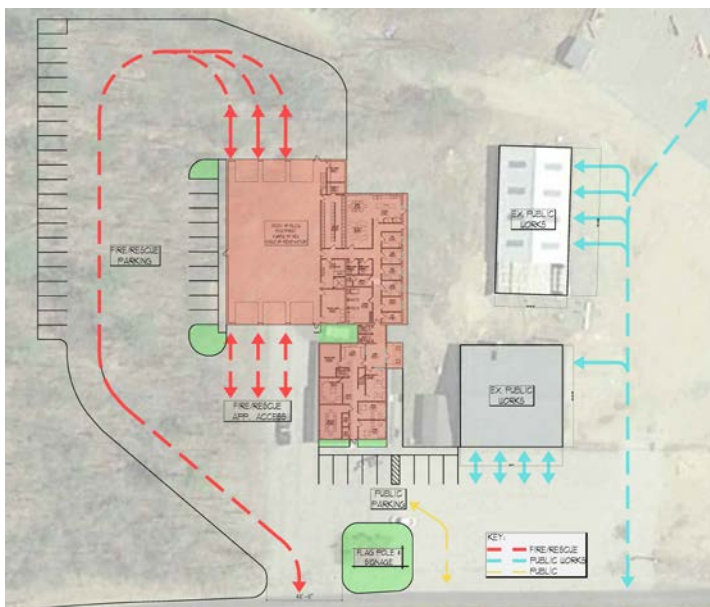


Tanker: At the 2015 Town Meeting, the voters approved the purchase of a tanker that holds 3,000 gallons of water for utilization in the area of town currently not served by the hydrant system. This is the sixth payment on the 10-year bond to fund the purchase of the tanker



Pumper: In preparation of replacing the 1993 Fire Pumper, the Town is proposing to place \$40,000.00 in a reserve account. It is scheduled to replace the new pumper in FY2023 when the vehicle will be 30 years old. By placing amounts into a reserve account, the Town will be able to lessen the tax impact when the replacement vehicle is purchased. This is the second payment made to the Fire Pumper reserve account.

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 \$50,000.00 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.



ROAD PROJECTS

FY2022 PROPOSED ROAD CIP

PROJECTS: The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget for this year is proposed to be \$405,000.00. In addition to making the \$103,516.00 payment on the road bond approved nine years ago, the following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

Valley Road: It is planned to perform drainage improvements and resurface the section of Valley Road from the Ford Quint/Boyle Road intersection to Morrells Mill Road or approximately 4700 feet. Estimated cost of the project is: \$113,000.00.

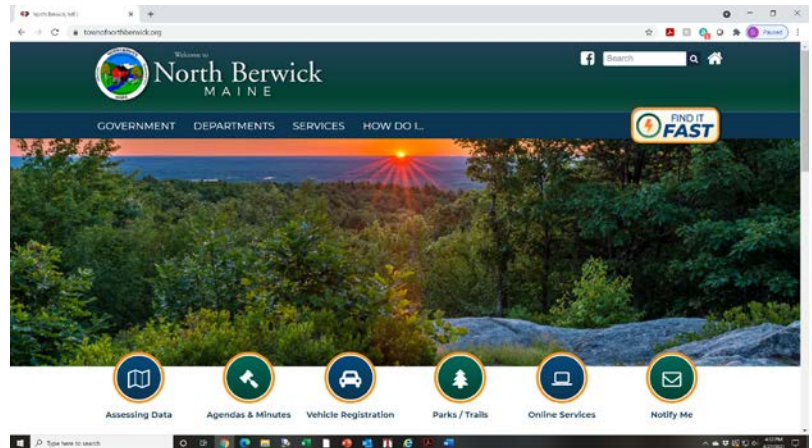
Ford Quint Road: It is planned to perform drainage improvements and resurface the section of Ford Quint Road from the Fox Farm Hill Road intersection to the bridge or approximately 9500 feet Road. Estimated cost of the project is: \$210,000.00.

Update on Linscott Road: The work on Linscott Road Intersection has commenced. Over the past summer and fall, the Town was able to install the modular home at 80 Wells Street for the Weaver's as compensation for their property located at 192 Wells Street. The Weavers were able to move into their new home in January, 2021.

The Town has completed the house and tree removal at 192 Wells Street and plan on starting construction on the Intersection in early May with a mid-June completion date.

Town of North Berwick Website

The town's new website has been up for about four months. If you need information regarding the Town, please check it out. The Website is updated on a daily basis to keep citizens informed of North Berwick information.



NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The North Berwick Community Garden is now accepting applications for 2021 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 the North Berwick Town Hall and the DA Hurd Library.

Contacts:

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jdennett@maine.rr.com

meleta.baker@gmail.com

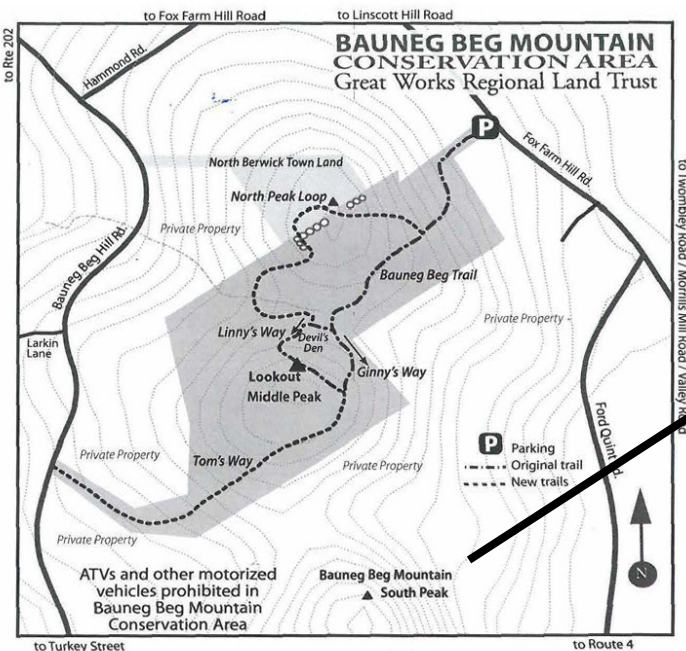
IMPACT FEE BUDGET

The Town of North Berwick has established a municipal infrastructure facilities improvement program (Impact Fee Program) which charges \$500.00 every time a bedroom is added to the Community and the fee is split 2/3 for Recreation purposes and 1/3 towards Open Space purposes. The funds collected can only be spent on capital expenditures for each of these specific purposes. The funds must be spent within a 10 year time frame of receiving the funds. Currently the town has approximately \$252,000.00 in the fund (\$133,000 for recreation and \$119,000.00 for Open Space). The Board of Selectmen are seeking permission from the voters to expend some of these funds on the following projects in the coming year.

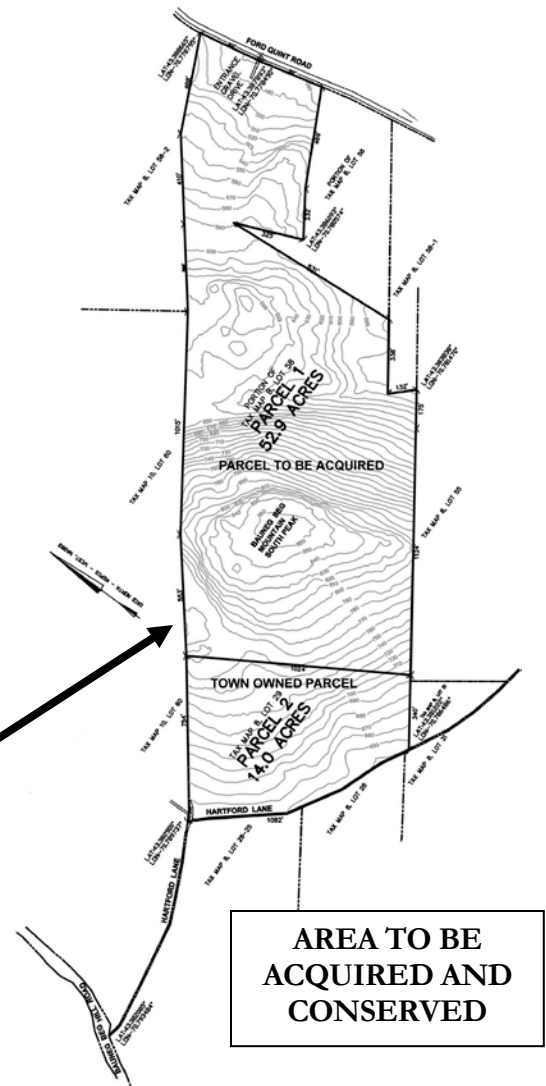
Bauneg Beg Mountain Recreation Area

The Town has an exciting opportunity to preserve the entire top of Bauneg Beg Mountain by coordinating with the Great Works Land Trust. Currently the Town and the Great Works Land Trust manage the 89 acres surrounding two of the three peaks of Bauneg Beg Mountain. This area provides public access to the Mountain while retaining the property for Open Space, Conservation and Recreational purposes. The Great Works Regional Land Trust has negotiated with the owner of the other peak, which is the highest of the three peaks, to sell 53 acres around the summit. In addition, the town has recently acquired a parcel of land through the Tax Acquired Process that is located on the back side of the highest peak.

The Town in conjunction with the GWRLT is in the process of filing a Land and Water Conservation Grant Application to assist in the purchase and stewardship of the remaining peak. As part of the grant application process, the Board of Selectmen is seeking to utilize some of the funds that are in the Impact Fee budget to assist in obtaining the property. The Board is recommending the use of \$80,000.00 of the Open Space Fund to assist with the purchase and additional \$20,000.00 from the Recreational Fund to assist in the stewardship and development of parking lots and trail system for all to enjoy the magnificence of Bauneg Beg Mountain.



CURRENT CONSERVATION AREA



Equipment and Landscaping Projects

The Town is seeking to expend \$37,000.00 of the recreational impact fee funds on the following recreation projects:



Community Center Playground Additions: Three items will be added to the playground area at the Community Center; a Teether Ball set, a Big Town Bouncer and a Fun Tunnel. These three additions will allow kids to play by themselves or with friends and will be utilized with the summer camp program as well. Budget: \$4,500.00.

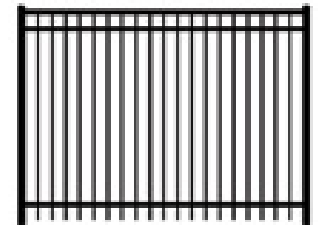


Portable Bike Racks: With the growing number of children who use their bike to get to the Community Center and ride around the Community Center as well as riding to the Canal Street Playground, the Town is proposing the installation of 5' Bike racks at each of the locations. Budget: \$1,500.00



Picnic Tables: Over the years the town has purchased wooden picnic tables that just don't seem to stand up to the continue usage. The Town is proposing to purchase coated metal picnic tables for the Community Center, Canal Street Playground and the Elroy Day Canoe Launch that will handle the usage and weather.. It is proposed to purchase the following quantity of tables: Community Center – 12 - 6' tables, 4 - 8' tables and 4 – 6' kids sized tables; Canal Street – 2 – 6' Tables; Elroy Day Canoe Launch – 1 – 6' table. Budget: \$22,500.00

Railing: The railing leading from the Community Center down to the lower Soccer field has fallen into disrepair and needs to be replaced to provide for adequate safety for those using the walkway. It is proposed to replace the damaged rail fencing with a more decorative and functional aluminum rail fencing. Budget: \$3,500.00



Landscaping Upgrades: The Town is proposing landscaping upgrades to the Community Center that will include renovating the side garden area, the Memorial Stone Area, Flag Pole Area and Beach Rose Area. Each area will include new mulch, plantings and repair of walls to beautify the area around the Community Center. Budget: \$5,000.00



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 June 1, 2021.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2021 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 2022 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: \$_____

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021
ELECTIONS & BUDGET REFERENDUM QUESTIONS – 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM
NORTH BERWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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