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TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

This year's budget preparation started back in November of 2019 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 increased from the previous year; however, this will not impact 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, excise taxes and miscellaneous fees to assist in offsetting the increase in the amount of taxation dollars needed for the budget.

There are many increases to costs which are outlined in the pages of this newsletter including both Operational and Capital Improvement costs.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is \$5,508,335.00 or a 5.56% increase 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. However, the continued increase in costs and services does not permit the town to decrease the budget for the ensuing year to provide the level of services citizens demand. This has resulted in the operations side of the budget increasing by 3.19% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has increased 16.43%. The increase to the CIP is due primarily to the Linscott Road Intersection Relocation Project. The town has applied for a grant to assist in this project and should the Town receive the grant the actual increase in the budget will be 1.08%. 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, miscellaneous fees, and taxes due to buildings and improvements. The Town is also proposing to utilize undesignated fund balance to keep the level of taxation down.

Also, on this year's ballot are 2 questions to amend the Zoning Ordinance. The Town was approached by Hussey Seating to amend the Industrial Zoning Boundary to encompass their entire property. Hussey Seating is contemplating an expansion of their factory and would like the option of utilizing their entire property in determining the best possible expansion plan. A review of the Town's 2000 comprehensive plan future zoning map showed that industrial zone encompassing the entire Hussey Seating property. In addition to the expanded Industrial Zone, the proposed change also moves the Zone Lines of existing property lines to eliminate a lot being split by more than one zoning district. The other Zoning Change is to clarify the "Rear setback when abutting a residential use" applies only to Commercial and Industrial uses that abut a residential use.

There is also the need to elect officers for the next year and the candidates are listed within the newsletter for voter consideration.

I encourage all citizens to review the proposed changes and decide 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: Morning Session – Referendum Questions and Elections



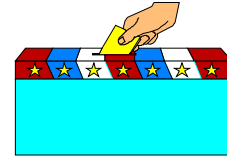
This year, the Town will open the polls for the morning session referendum questions at 8:00 am with polls closing at 1:00 pm. If you cannot vote during this time frame, you are encouraged to get an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk so that you have the opportunity to have your vote counted. Absentee Ballots can be obtained by contacting Chris at 676-3353 x 1. The last day to vote via absentee ballot is Tuesday, March 31, 2020.

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 one)
Charles Galemmo

Water District Trustee:

For 3 years (vote for two)
James Muthig
Carl Works

**Budget Committee
Member:**

For 3 years (vote for not
more than four)
Daniel Baker
John Baronowski
Christina Brown
Julie Fernee
Rebecca Reed

MSAD #60 School Director:

For 3 years (vote for one)
Kristen Johnson
Lynn Manley

Sanitary District Trustee:


For 3 years (vote for one)
Maurice Dolbec

Cemetery Trustee:


For 3 years (vote for two)
Robert Glidden
Melissa Pierce

For 2 years (vote for not more
than one)
Peter Derby

ANNUAL REPORT



**TOWN OF
NORTH BERWICK**



**For The Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2018
And ending June 30, 2019**

**And the
2020 Budget Meeting Warrant**

Town Reports

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, March 27, 2020. Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

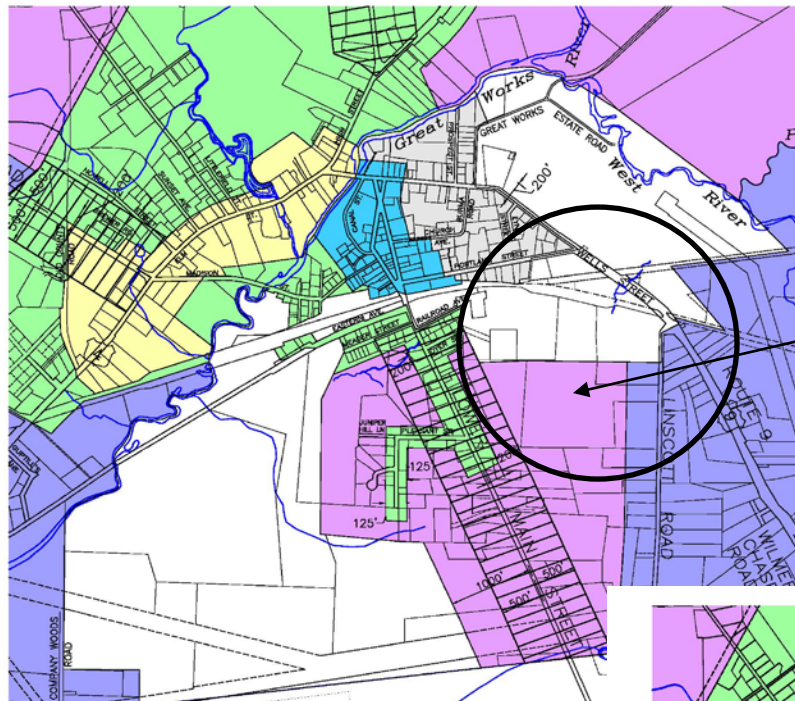
Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Ordinance amending the North Berwick Zoning Ordinance to expand areas in and near the industrial zone where industrial uses will be permitted and to make conforming changes to the Zoning Map,” be enacted?

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).

Certified copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Intent: To provide increased Industrial land to allow for the expansion of Industrial Uses within the town to provide additional economic benefit to taxpayers. The change also moves the Zone Lines to existing property lines to eliminate a lot being split by more than one zoning district.



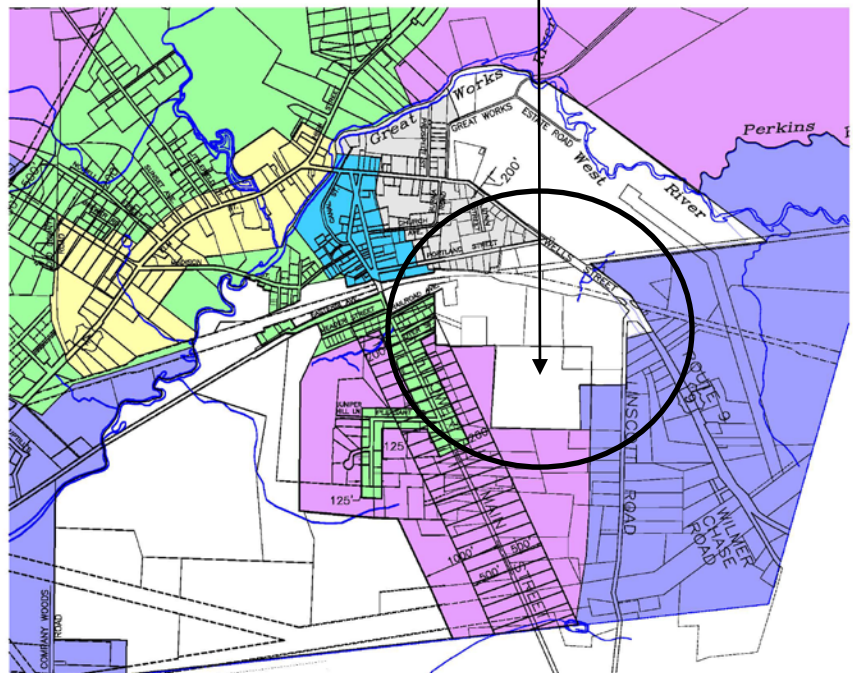
← CURRENT ZONING

Industrial is the White Zone

ZONING CHANGE AREA

PROPOSED ZONING →

Industrial is the White Zone



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?

Table 4.3 – Dimensional Requirements

Add note to “Rear Setback when abutting a Residential Use” to include only Commercial and Industrial Uses.

Table 4.3 DIMENSIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Lots in all districts shall meet or exceed the following minimum requirements. (Additional area may be required by other provisions of this ordinance.)

	see notes all zones	Resre prot. distr. (i)	Shrlnd limit. resid. distr.	Shrlnd Gen. devel.	Shrlnd stream prot.	Comm II & Industrial	Resid. distr. 1	Resid. distr. 2	Farm & Forest	Vill. Ctr. & Comm'l	Vill. A distr.	Vill. B distr.	Vill. C overlay
Minimum lot size (sq.ft.) without public water & sewer	j, p	a,o,r	60,000 o,r	40,000 o,r,s	60,000 o,r	40,000 k	40,000 k	80,000	160,000	20,000 k, m	20,000 k	30,000 k	20,000 k, m
" With public water & sewer	p	o, r	o, r	o,r,s	o, r					10,000 k, m			10,000 k, m
Minimum road frontage (feet)	b,e		200	100	100	100	150	200	300	25	100	125	und. distr.
Minimum shore frontage (feet)	b	q	200(q)	200(q)	200(q)	200	200	200	300	200	200	200	200
Minimum yard dimensions (feet)	c		50	50	50	50/30 (l)	50	80	100	10	35	50	50
Front setback													
Side setback	l		25	20	20	100/20 (d,g,2 Indus)	35	60	75	0 (d)	20 (g)	25 (g)	und. distr.
Rear setback			25	25	25	20(d,g)	50	60	75	10 (d)	25 (g)	30 (g)	und. distr.
Rear setback when abutting a Residential Use Only applies to Commercial and Industrial Uses			30	30	30	100(g)	60	75	100	10	30	35	25
Shoreland setback from normal high water	t		100	75(n)	100	200	100	100	100	75		100	100
Maximum lot coverage Residential for structures	h		10%	70%	25%	25%	10%	5%	5%	80%	25%	25%	30%
" Non-residential for structures	h		10%	70%	40%	50%	20%	10%	10%	80%	40%	40%(l)	35%
Max. building height (feet)			35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35
Max. floor to area ratio (FAR)										240%			

(1) 50/30 = 50 feet from abutting residential lot
30 feet from abutting non-residential lot

(2) 100/20 = 100 feet from abutting residential district
20 feet from abutting non-residential district

4-12

2020 Proposed Change is highlighted and bold

North Berwick Zoning Ordinance
Proposed 4 April 2020

Certified copies of the proposed ordinance are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Intent: To clarify the “Rear setback when abutting a residential use” applies only to Commercial and Industrial uses that abut a residential use.

FARMERS MARKET

For those citizens who enjoy the Farmer's Market, please take note - ***Beginning in May 2020, the North Berwick Farmer's Market will be relocating to 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.

NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN

The North Berwick Community Garden is now accepting applications for 2020 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.

You may also contact:
scaler319@gmail.com
joanshaw1@yahoo.com

jdennett@maine.rr.com
meleta.baker@gmail.com



AFTERNOON SESSION WARRANT ARTICLE 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 months of February and March and has recommended the FY 2021 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will increase by \$266,517.00 or a 5.56% increase, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$56,292.00. 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 \$1,649,755.00.

Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2021:

<u>Budget Committee Recommendations</u>	
Appropriations	\$5,058,335.00
Available Resources	
Excise Tax	\$911,075.00
Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$396,400.00
Des. Surplus	\$10,000.00
Misc. Fees	\$400,315.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$174,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$70,750.00
State Road Aid	\$70,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$133,985.00
Impact Fees	\$0.00
Subtotal	\$2,891,310.00
Increase over FY2020	\$56,292.00

Tax Limitation Calculations

Tax Limit	\$4,541,065.00
Balance to be carried	\$1,649,755.00

Proposed Expenditures

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	\$95,915.00	\$95,915.00	0.00%
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	\$114,173.00	\$153,098.00	34.09%
TOTAL	\$857,843.00	\$998,748.00	16.43%

Proposed Revenues

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%
Designated Surplus	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	0.00%
Undesignated Surplus	\$227,900.00	\$396,400.00	73.94%
TOTAL	\$4,791,818.00	\$5,508,335.00	5.56%

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed budget for FY21 calls for a 5.56% increase in funding over FY20. The Board of Selectmen's goal was to keep the operations side of the budget to under a 3% increase from the previous year and the proposed budget represents a 3.19% increase in operational costs. The capital side of the budget is increasing 14.63% 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 per diem rate was increased in order to retain and recruit personnel.

Library: With the increase in minimum wage, the Library budget is affected negatively as the wage rate need to be increased for those employees at the minimum wage level.

Insurances: Health premiums have increased 7%. Casualty and Liability premiums are expected to increase 5%. The Board has proposed to increase the Town's portion of family health insurance for non-contracted employees to 80% with the employee contributing 20%. It currently is 75%/25% split. The town negotiated with the Police Officer Association for officers to pay 15% of their health insurance (currently 75%/25% for family plan and 100%/0 %for single plan).

Retirement: MPERS has increased the percentage that the Town must contribute for its employees. This resulted in a 2.7% increase for regular employees. The town negotiated with the Police Union to change the retirement plan from the current 20 year no age retirement to a 25 no age plan resulting in a 37% decrease for Police.

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.

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 will result in a cost savings of approximately \$27,500.00 a year.

Insurance: The town's Worker Compensation insurance is expected to decrease 5% due to the Town's experience modification rate being lowered.

Capital Projects:

The largest unexpected Capital Project is the relocation of the Linscott Road Intersection to provide for a safer Route 9 corridor. The Town has been working with MDOT for years on a solution to the dangerous intersection and this year a solution has been determined (Please see the article detailing the project in this newsletter). It will require the Town to purchase property in the amount of \$180,000.00 in order to relocate the intersection. This \$180,000.00 purchase is reflected in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. The Town is budgeting these funds to come from the Town's undesignated fund, however, the Town has applied for a grant from the MDOT to assist with this project and if successful, the State would contribute \$215,000.00 towards the project. Without the inclusion of this project, the Town's overall budget would have increased only 1.08%. and should the Town receive the grant from the State, the funds will replenish the amount taken from the Undesignated Fund Balance.

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 and miscellaneous fees as well as proposing to utilize reserve funds for the purchasing of equipment and property scheduled on the Capital Improvement Plan. 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 \$190,000.00 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.

Website Update



townofnorthberwick.org

Included in the budget for General Government, are funds to create an updated, modern website that will include new features and applications, be compliant with ADA regulations while providing the very best website protection protocols for North Berwick citizens to utilize.

The Town of North Berwick launched our first website nearly 20 years ago with the help of Anne Whitten. Anne, who was a Selectman at the time, took the project on, learned how to create websites and developed the town's current website at no cost to the Town. The Town would like to thank Anne for all the dedicated work that she has performed to get information out to the citizens of North Berwick and the world for the past 20 years.

We are excited to begin working on the new website and creating a responsive, modern website for our citizens to enjoy. Pending town meeting budget approval, it is anticipated that the new website will "go-live" this fall, 2020.

FY21 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Fire Department:

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

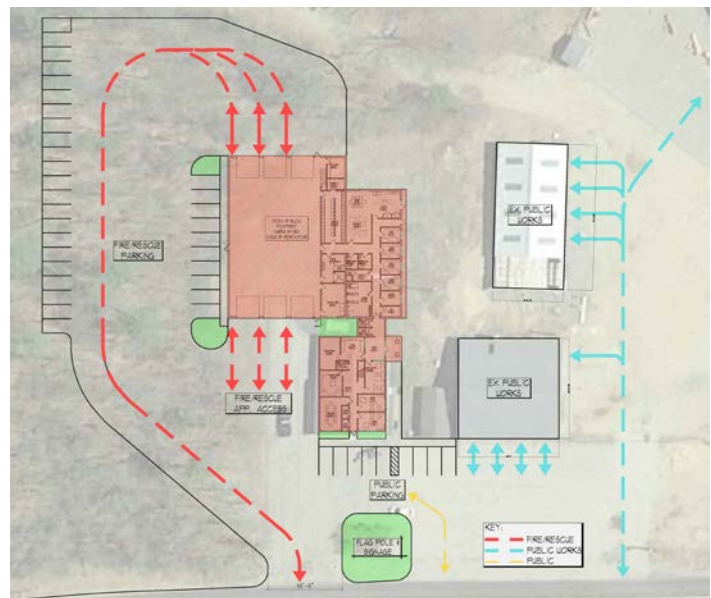
Pumper: Eight years ago, the Town authorized the purchase of a new fire pumper to be financed over a ten-year period. This is the eighth of ten payments on the bond for the fire pumper.



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 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. 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.



TOWN MEETING NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The newsletter that is being mailed to all the residents in town was actually created and printed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was created to explain the budget that was to be voted upon at the April 4, 2020 Town Meeting as well as upcoming event notices. Due to the pandemic and the inability for people to assemble, the Town Meeting was cancelled and much of the events described have been cancelled for the year as well. Now that the Governor has proposed a re-opening plan for the State of Maine, it is obvious that the Town will not be able to adopt a budget through an Open Annual Town Meeting. Instead, the Board of Selectmen has voted to include the vote on the town budget at the July 14, 2020 election.

Budget Referendum Overview: In order to keep the ballot as succinct as possible, the Budget Referendum has been assembled into 11 questions instead of the 43 questions that were originally proposed for the Open Town Meeting.

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 are related to the Linscott Road Intersection Relocation project that the Town has been working with the Maine DOT for the past year. This is described in detail within the pages of the newsletter.

Question 10 is the acceptance of Deerfield Road as a Town Road now that the development is completely built out.

Question 11 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 840-2113-2918

A Zoom Public Hearing will be held on the Referendum Questions for Town Meeting on June 23, 2020 at 6:30p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be to review the 11 Budget and 2 Zoning Referendum Questions for voters to have an understanding of the questions to be voted upon on July 14, 2020. The Zoom number is 840-2113-2918. Video will be available and residents may ask questions regarding the Budget and proposed Zoning changes. 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 2, 2020
Delinquent: October 3, 2020
Balance Due: May 7, 2021
Delinquent: May 8, 2021
Interest: 9.00%

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 QUESTIONS 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.

OTHER NEWSLETTER UPDATES:

Summer Camp is Cancelled for this year.

The Easter Event was Cancelled for this year.

Tax Club Application deadline is extended to August 15, 2020.

Adopt a Cemetery Program is available, please contact Town Manager for more information.

There is a typographical error on the Budget financial page. The FY21 Total Proposed Expenditures and Revenues should be \$5,058,355.00 and not \$5,508,355.00.

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	

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, 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 Reimbursement	\$233,000.00
BETE Reimbursement	<u>\$1,900,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,687,250.00

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.

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.

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS, \$180,000.00 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS, \$180,000.00 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ALLOWS THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROPOSED LINSCHOTT ROAD INTERSECTION RELOCATION PROJECT. THE TOWN HAS RECENTLY BEEN APPROVED FOR A GRANT FROM THE MAINE DOT WHICH WILL REIMBURSE THE TOWN HALF OF THE PURCHASE PRICE, OR \$90,000.00, SO THE ULTIMATE COST TO THE TOWN WILL ONLY BE \$90,000.00 TO PURCHASE THE PROPERTY.

IN ADDITION, THE MDOT GRANT WILL ALSO PROVIDE HALF THE CONSTRUCTION COST OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT FOR A TOTAL GRANT OF \$215,000.00. PLEASE REVIEW THE ARTICLE ON THIS PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN THIS NEWSLETTER.

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?

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

OUGHT TO PASS.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS:

OUGHT TO PASS.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION AUTHORIZES THE BOARD TO REMEDY THE PROPERTY LINE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE NEWLY PURCHASED PROPERTY AND THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS BY REESTABLISHING THE SHARED PROPERTY LINE.

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

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

OUGHT TO PASS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS:

OUGHT TO PASS, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020.

EXPLANATION: THIS QUESTION ACCEPTS DEERFIELD ESTATES ROAD AS A TOWN ROAD. THE DEVELOPMENT IS NOW COMPLETED AND THE DEVELOPER HAS COMPLIED WITH ALL THE REQUIREMENTS TO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DEERFIELD ESTATES ROAD BECOME A TOWN ROAD.

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.**

BUDGET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS, \$4,878,335.00 WITH \$70,750.00 FROM EQUIPMENT FUND, \$133,985.00 FROM ENTERPRISE FUND, AND \$216,400.00 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS: OUGHT TO PASS, OUGHT TO PASS, \$4,878,335.00 WITH \$70,750.00 FROM EQUIPMENT FUND, \$133,985.00 FROM ENTERPRISE FUND, AND \$216,400.00 FROM UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE.

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.

Selectmen Pledge to Voters: It is very unorthodox that the voters are being asked to approve a budget by referendum vote. With the uncertainty of the economy due to the COVID-19 virus, the Board of Selectmen will continue to monitor the expenditures and revenues contained within the budget and make adjustments throughout the year where necessary. The town is financially healthy and the Board continues to strive to be fiscally responsible as entrusted by the voters.

BUDGET UPDATE:

With the recent award of the \$215,000.00 MDOT grant for the Linscott Road intersection relocation project, the Town budget increase will be 1.08% from last year and will not have any effect on the tax rate. The Town has revised the revenue estimates as it is anticipated that the Town will receive less revenue especially from State Revenue Sharing and State Road Bond funds. The budget was crafted utilizing very conservative estimates and we are anticipating that the conservative estimating performed during the budget preparation will allow the Town to maintain our fiscal healthiness without any tax increase for municipal services.

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING

The Town is highly encouraging voters to use the absentee balloting process for the July 14, 2020 election. Absentee ballots can be obtained by contacting the Town Clerk, Christine Dudley, 207-676-3353 x 1.

The use of absentee ballots will assist in maintain social distancing while allowing voters to cast their votes on the various items on the ballots.

Pumper: In preparation of replacing the 1993 Fire Pumper, the Town is proposing to place \$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 amounts into a reserve account, the Town will be able to lessen the tax impact when the replacement vehicle is purchased.

Rescue Squad:

Ambulance: At the FY2019 Town Meeting, voters approved the purchase of a new Ambulance to replace an older unit. In anticipation of this replacement, the Town started setting funds aside for the purchase of a new ambulance in 2017; however, there were not enough funds in reserve to purchase the Ambulance. The Town Meeting granted permission to borrow \$130,000.00 from the Town's Undesignated Surplus and replenish the funds over the next three budget cycles. Due to a higher than anticipated financial gift from the Rescue Squad, Inc. of \$60,000.00, the town only had to borrow \$67,000.00 and is able to pay back the funds in a two-year period of \$33,500.00 each year. This year's budget includes the last repayment of \$33,400.00.



Police Department:



Police Cruiser: This year, the police department is requesting a replacement cruiser. Once again, the Police Department is planning on replacing one of the Impalas with a Ford Interceptor SUV. The Town currently has 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.

The increase in cost this year can be attributed to the increase in costs from Ford on the Interceptor modeled cost - \$ 42,060.00

Public Works:



Loader: At the 2016 town meeting, voters approved the purchase of a new CAT loader on a lease purchase agreement not to exceed 5 years in length. The town was able to negotiate the purchase price and trade in value to reduce the lease term to a four-year term and stay under the \$30,000.00 budgeted yearly appropriation. This will be the last of 4 payments of \$28,670.00.

Sidewalk Machine: It is planned to replace the 1996 MT Trackless with an updated sidewalk machine. The current machine is 24 years old and although the Public Works crew has maintained the machine, it is time to replace. It is planned to purchase a new MT Trackless with a ribbon snowblower and a rear sander/spreader to maintain the town's sidewalks. In addition, the current attachments that the town owns, such as the sweeper and spray system, will be able to be used by the new machine. Estimated Cost: \$145,000.00



ROAD PROJECTS

FY2021 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 \$105,616.00 payment on the road bond approved eight years ago, the following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

Beech Ridge Road: It is planned to perform drainage improvements and resurface the section of Beech Ridge Road from Lebanon Road to the Reischl residence. Estimated cost of the project is: \$105,850.00.

Dillingham Road: This winter has taken a beating on the roads in town, none more than the section of Dillingham Road from the Gerrish Farm to the culvert. The Town plans on reconstructing the 850 foot section of road that has heaved significantly over the past winter. Estimated Cost: \$ 54,150.00

Linscott Road: 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 an unsafe intersection. Sight Distances when looking to the West are approximately 100 feet 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 intersection. 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. With the increased traffic on Wells Street and Linscott Road, this results in an unsafe situation.

On July 30, 2019, voters approved engineering funds at a Special Town Meeting held to review solutions to improve the Linscott Road Intersection with the MDOT and make it a safer intersection. The MDOT performed an MDOT Safety Assessment on July 31, 2019 and one of the recommendations of the assessment was the relocation of the intersection on the abutting property. 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. However, in order to accomplish the relocation, the Town would need to acquire the abutting property currently owned by the Weavers.

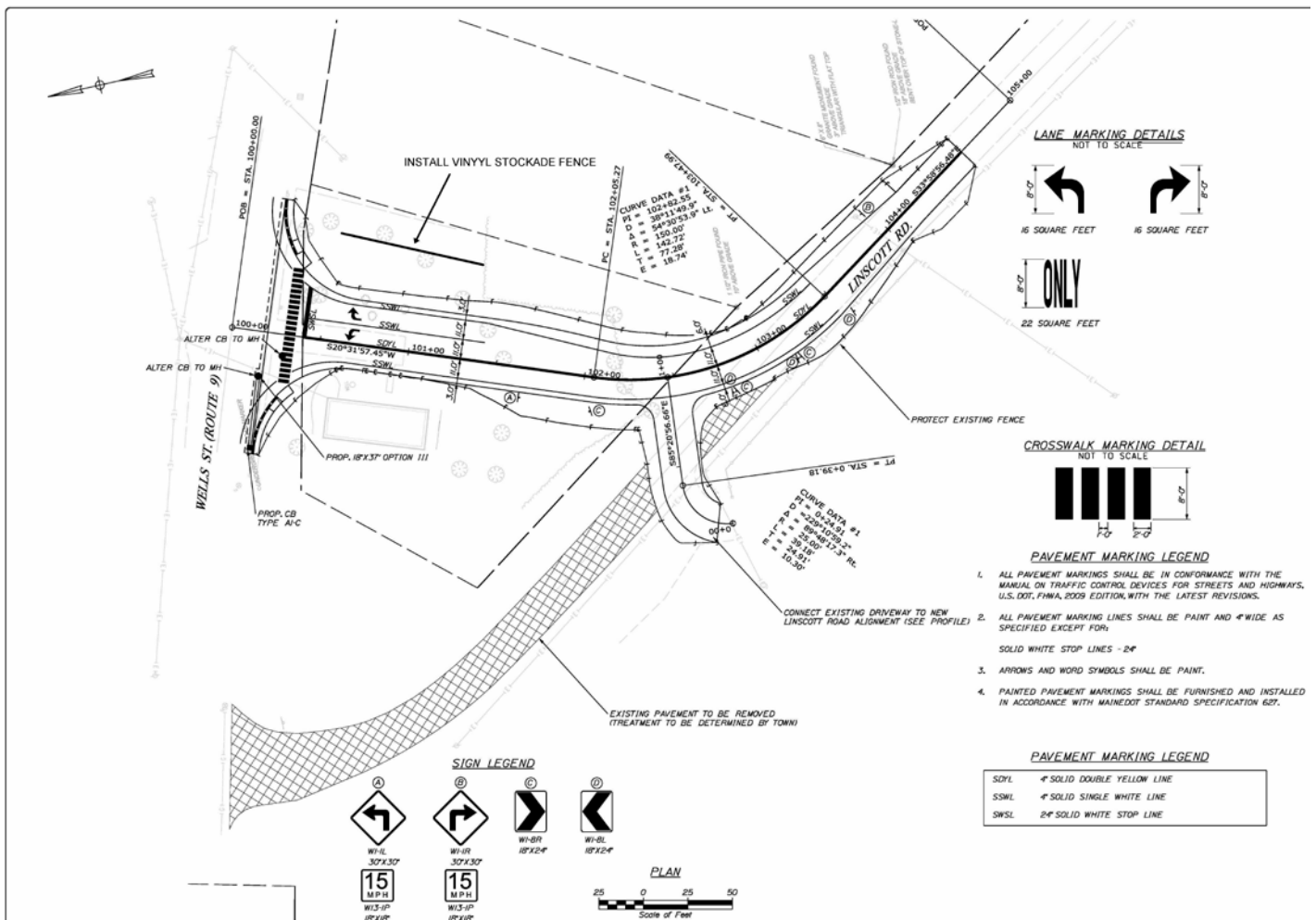
The Town of North Berwick has been in negotiations with the Weaver family to purchase their parcel of land to accomplish the relocation of Linscott Road. The Town has had the property appraised and is working with the Weaver family and the Maine DOT to obtaining the property through a few different options.

In order to accomplish this project, the Town will be required to obtain the Weaver property that abuts the intersection and State of Maine property to the east of the current intersection. The Town has met with the Weavers and they have stated that they are in favor of the project. The Town has completed the appraisal process on the property and are currently assisting the Weaver family in finding a new living arrangement as the availability of affordable housing in North Berwick is limited. The town is working with the MDOT to transfer ownership of a parcel of land under State of Maine ownership to the town in exchange for the current Linscott Road intersection property and a portion of the Weaver property to increase the right of way along Route 9. The Town is working with the Weavers to place a modular home on the State property and then exchange this improved property for the parcel of land necessary to accomplish the relocation of Linscott Road.

The MDOT is finalizing the process on Transferring the land to the Town of North Berwick and this will be presented to the voters of North Berwick at the Annual Town Meeting on April 4, 2020 as part of the Capital Improvement Plan. Voters will be asked to approve the appropriation of \$180,000.00 to accomplish the Acquisition of the Weaver property.

This project addresses multiple issues regarding safety, traffic movement, and access within the Town of North Berwick. The improved sight distance gained by relocating the intersection will provide for safer access to the traveling public entering and exiting Linscott Road. A safer intersection has a benefit to the core of Wells Street (Route 9) as it alleviates a dangerous intersection. With the State obtaining additional right of way, any improvements needed to the bridge over the railroad will be enhanced as well. The estimated cost of the reconstruction of the Intersection is \$135,805.00.

The Town has submitted a grant to the MDOT under the Municipal Partnership Initiative in the amount of \$215,000.00 to assist the town with this project.



NORTH BERWICK SUMMER CAMP

The North Berwick Summer Camp program offers summertime recreational activities for North Berwick youth ages 5-13 years old. The program incorporates team sports, games, crafts, and theme days and weeks. Campers will also go on quality field trips during the week. Camp will take place at the North Berwick Community Center on Lebanon Rd. The North Berwick Recreation Director is on-site most days. The Town has a very qualified staff and all are certified in First Aid/CPR. Resident cost: \$850.00 per child Non-resident \$900.00 per person for the entire 6 weeks, all field trips and a camp t-shirt. Dates: Monday, June 29th through Friday, August 7th, 2020 from 9am-3pm. This year there will be a \$50.00 discount per sibling after the first camper is registered.

Before and after care is also available for an additional fee and this fee remains the same as last year.

The minimum number of campers to operate the program will be 40 campers with a maximum of 85 campers.

All you need to secure a spot is a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit.

Don't wait too long!!

For more detailed information on the Summer Camp Program please go to the Town Website at www.townofnorthberwick.org.

Accepting registrations beginning April 1, 2020

Sign-Up Dates:

April 1st 5:00pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.

May 20th 5:00pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.



PARKS AND RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

North Berwick Fall Soccer Program



Residents: \$40.00 per player
\$95.00 for a family of 3 or more
Non-Residents: \$50.00 per player

Season Dates:

September 12 – October 24, 2020
Practices begin 1st week in September

Sign Up Dates:

Tuesday, May 20, 2020 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, July 29, 2020 5:00pm to 6:00pm
At the N.B. Community Center

No sign-ups accepted after August 1st to allow time to coordinate the ordering of jerseys, as well as, ordering the equipment and field items required. Thank you for your understanding.



Easter Event

Saturday, April 11, 2020
Noon - 1:30pm
Community Center
Ages: Pre-k to 3rd grade

On April 11th the Easter Bunny will hop into North Berwick and hide lots of eggs at the NB Community Center. Egg hunt starts at noontime followed by some other activities. There will be three grade groups: Pre-k, Kind.-1st and 2nd -3rd. Make sure and bring a basket. The eggs will contain candy, trinkets and numbers for a prize that we cannot fit inside the eggs. North Berwick residents only please... Dress accordingly, event will be held rain, snow or shine.

Egg hunts start at NOON -- BRING YOUR BASKET!

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PARKS AND RECREATION THIS YEAR?

Check out the yearly Activity Booklet available at the Town Hall and Community Center. You can also check it out on our website; townofnorthberwick.org under Parks and Rec.

It is full of information about Parks and Recreation activities as well as local non-profit groups in North Berwick.



SPECIAL TOWN MEETING UPDATES

STREETLIGHTS

On July 30, 2019, voters approved the funds necessary to purchase and convert the Town of North Berwick Streetlights to LED fixtures. Voters agreed with the Board of Selectmen that the cost savings along with the energy and emissions savings is a deal that just cannot be ignored. By purchasing the existing lights and replacing them with new, town-owned & maintained state of the art LED fixtures, it is projected that monthly costs will be reduced by as much as 90%, saving the Town nearly \$26,000.00 per year.

In August 2020, the Town purchased the Streetlights from Central Maine Power and entered into an agreement with Affinity LED Lighting, a local company founded in 2012 in Portsmouth, NH and currently headquartered in downtown Dover, NH, to replace the old sodium pressure streetlights with modern LED fixtures. In December 2019, Affinity LED lighting replaced the 183 streetlights.

Project Expansion: One of the products that the Town received from Affinity during the LED conversion project was a GIS mapping of all the Streetlight in the Town of North Berwick. As a result of that mapping, it was determined that there were many locations within the Town that did not have adequate streetlighting. The Town's policy is to have streetlights at the intersections of Town owned roads for the safety of vehicular traffic. It was found that 16 intersections, primarily in the Farm and Forest Zone, did not have any streetlights. The Selectmen also authorized a review of 7 private road intersections with major Town roads to see if it is in the best interest of the Town to illuminate those areas for safety purposes. The Town is in the process of working with CMP and Affinity LED Lighting to determine the cost and process to install new streetlights in those areas. The Selectmen will hold holding a public hearing prior to any installations. The intersections identified:

Public Intersections

Lebanon Road and Pheasant Hill Road
Lebanon Road and Beech Ridge Road
Lebanon Road and Dillingham Road
Lebanon Road and Little River Road
Fox Farm Hill Road and Ford Quint Road
Fox Farm Hill Road and Hammond Road
Fox Farm Hill Road and Linscott Hill Road
Bauneg Beg Hill Road and Linscott Hill Road
Bauneg Beg Hill Road and Hammond Road
Bauneg Beg Hill Road and Oakwoods Road
Turkey Street and Bauneg Beg Hill Road
Ford Quint Road and Meeting House Road
Oakwoods Road and Meeting House Road

Beech Ridge Road and Schoolhouse Road
Somersworth Road and Maple Street Forest Parking
Wells Street and Linscott Road

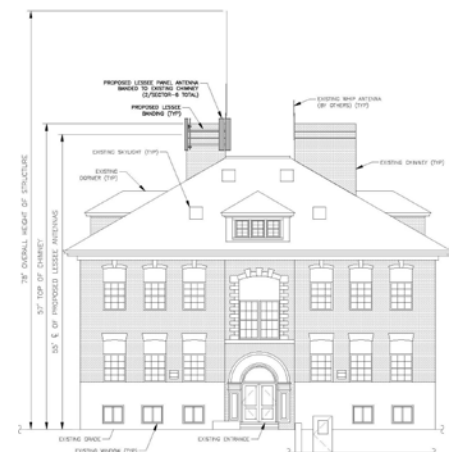
Public/Private Intersections

Morrells Mill Road and West 1
Morrells Mill Road and West 2
Morrells Mill Road and Otter Cove Lane
Morrells Mill Road and West 4
Valley Road and Butler Road
Governor Goodwin Road and Deerfield Road (n)*
Governor Goodwin Road and Deerfield Road (s)*

*To be paid by Action Builders, Inc.

VERIZON – TOWN HALL LEASE

In December, the Town of North Berwick voters authorized the Board of Selectmen to enter into a long-term lease for the purposes of installing telecommunications equipment on the Town Hall. The town has completed negotiations with Verizon to install equipment on the Town Hall Chimneys and utilize a portion of the third floor of the Town Hall for telecommunications equipment in an effort to increase the cell phone signal for the provider in North Berwick. The terms of the Verizon agreement include a 5 year initial lease period with 4 additional 5 year options. Verizon will compensate the Town \$1,500.00 a month with a 1.5% annual increase or \$18,000.00 a year. The initial lease term will realize approximately \$93,000.00 to the Town with the ability to realize \$540,000.00 if all future options are exercised.



Construction is anticipated to begin this summer, following Verizon obtaining all the necessary land use permits from the Federal, State and Local authorities.



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, 2020.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2020 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), Guptill (#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-Guptill(#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 2020 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 – Saturday, April 4, 2020
Philip Hussey Auditorium
Noble High School**

**Elections & Referendum Questions – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Budget Meeting Session – 1:30 pm
GET OUT AND VOTE!!!**

Town of North Berwick
21 Main Street
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North Berwick, Maine 03906

www.townofnorthberwick.com

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