

Town Manager's Office – Stephen G. Eldridge, Manager

The month of July has flown by. It has been a month that seems to have us on hold for projects getting started. Road Paving was scheduled to start on July 18th and got postponed due to equipment failure and maintenance. We are hoping to start the final week of July but more likely it will start on August 1, 2016. Public Works Department has done a great job with ditching and tree removal with stumps coming out of the ditches within the next few weeks. Prime Tanning demolition was scheduled to begin in July and that has been held up waiting on permits from DEP and others, but I can finally say that EnviroVantage is on the premises and removing hazardous materials such as light bulbs and other items. I expect there will be equipment on site August 1st.

Several Board of Selectmen, John Stoll, Envision Berwick Committee members, myself and a few others have been meeting with a developer, brewer, restaurateur and local grocer that are interested in the Prime Tanning site. They are very serious business prospects so we have sent them to Mark Kehaya, the property owner, to negotiate a cost for space, design and/or build.

I have requested of businesses that have been part of the Adopt-A-Spot, to meet in August and any others that may be interested are welcome. We have a small list of participants and we are trying to have them participate in future changes. We are redoing the islands on Sullivan Street with plantings which will be done at night

when the traffic is less. We will also be doing the parking lots on Sullivan Street as recommended by the Traffic Study to create more parking spaces and have the entry and exit safer for users. We are also expecting to put in sidewalks and garden space along that area.

The change in Town Office hours seems to be a positive move to accommodate working citizens. We have heard positive comments from most citizens and we have caught a few unaware on Fridays that forget we close at 11AM. This change has also helped us manage our customer service hours and cut back on compensation time. We have also completed our union contract negotiations with the Teamsters unit which includes Fire Department, Public Works, Water Department and non-salary office staff. The process was very good. I want to make sure I thank the Shop Stewards, Department Heads and the Finance Director for making this a successful process. The Police Department union, MAP, and town have finished the bulk of their contract and will hopefully finish up within the next month. This too has been a very smooth process with their Union Stewards, the Police Chief and the Finance Director.

I hope everyone is having a good summer now that the weather is cooperating. Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. My door is always open.

Finance Office – Maureen Finger, Director

Tax Liens:

Any property with unpaid taxes will go to lien on August 9, 2016. These liens are applied against the owner of record as of April 1, 2015. If you sold your property after that date, the 2015-2016 taxes will remain in your name until they are paid off. The taxes follow the owner of record as of April 1 of the tax year - this is mandated by the State. Therefore the owner of record as of April 1, 2016 will be assessed the taxes for the July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 budget year.

Tax Bills:

The Board of Selectmen will be setting the tax rate for the 2016-2017 taxes at their August 16th meeting and then tax bills can be generated. It is our hope that the bills will be in the mail no later than September 1, 2016. The first half of the taxes are due October 17, 2016 and the second half is due April 18, 2017. **PLEASE REMEMBER THAT ONLY ONE TAX BILL WILL BE MAILED OUT EACH YEAR WITH TWO PAYMENT STUBS.**

End of the 2016 Budget Year:

The Town's 2016 fiscal year ended on June 30, 2016. The auditors will be here the week of August 22 to review our documentation. The finance office has been compiling reports and end of year material for their arrival.

Bond:

The Town is working to acquire funding as approved by the voters at the Town vote on June 14, 2016. We are reviewing various financing options and will be getting short-term financing bids, i.e. bond anticipation notes or BANs in early October. The Voter approved items included: the purchase and equipping of two new fire trucks, new windows in the Town Hall auditorium, repair of the brick wall in the auditorium, and new clock works for clock tower. Permanent financing will be put into place with either the Spring Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) bond issue or the Fall MMBB bond issue depending upon obtaining final costs for these projects.



Police Department – Timothy Towne, Chief

We began the process of having the Police Department radio repeater replaced on the Water Department holding tank located on Pine Hill Road. This is replacing the existing repeater that was installed in the year 2000. Some of the components have already been received, however we are waiting on a few more. This project should be completed by the end of August.

We received notification that Officer Christopher Kearns has been accepted into the Basic Police Training Program that will begin on August 15th. Officer Kearns had been placed on a list of potential participants pending a decision based on the class size. He has made the final selection and is currently preparing for the 18 week program.



We have two officers now certified as Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians. These

officers will be able to assist any resident that would like help installing a seat in their vehicle. The officers will be able to make sure that the safety seat meets the required standards, as well as making sure that it is installed correctly. Any resident may call and set up a time for one of these two officers to meet with them.



On Friday, July 15th, we met with a representative from NT&T to begin the process of having the new telephone system installed. This is the same system that the Town Hall and Fire Department have already had installed. The system should be completed within the next few weeks.

On Saturday, July 30th, our department hosted a class that was presented by Dale Gilbert of the Maine Department of Highway Safety. The class was entitled "Driving Dynamics." This class is presented at varied locations throughout the State. The class was open to the general public.

Fire Department – Dennis Plante, Chief

Present Staff Levels:

26 & 2 juniors

One resigned due to personal reasons

One on leave due to full time job transfer out of area

One out on medical leave



Apparatus / Equipment Status:

Truck 1 is back in service however, is in need of further repairs.

Engine 2 is back in service

Engine 3 has developed several piping leaks in the Fire pump. These repairs were made and the apparatus is now back in service.

With approval of funding for replacement Fire Apparatus, we are developing vehicle specifications to be used in the bidding process which is forth coming.

Fire Department Study Recommendations:

We are continuing the process of updating and adding to the Department's Fire Pre Plans and establishing a more formal in-serve fire inspection program as recommended by the Fire Study Team, when staffing and funding levels are available. (On going)

Recruitment:

Annual recruitment activities have resulted in 8 applications being received for On Call staff. The Oral Board process has been completed as of June 22, 2016. Two (2) out of the 8 will be offered on call positions in the near future.

We have also received 12 applications for the full time career position. The Department conducted physical agility testing for those applicants on June 25, 2016 and all but 1 passed. Those who passed, moved on to oral boards which resulted in 2 finalists selected. The next step was to move on to interview with the Chief and Town Manager. As a result, Joel Barnes was offered and accepted the fulltime position with a start date of July 27, 2016. Joel is a Certified Firefighter / Paramedic.



Effective July 11, 2016 the department started 24 hour shifts M-F. This change in schedule allows a transition period for our career staff. Once the new hire is trained, 24/7 shifts are planned which will cover Saturdays & Sundays. This is anticipated to occur around mid-September 2016.

Training

Our two newest recruits, Firefighters Turner and Townsend have now completed over 200 hours each and did receive their Firefighter 1 & 2 certifications on June 21, 2016. Firefighter Turner is now enrolled in a basic EMT program and Firefighter Townsend is already a Basic EMT.

One member was enrolled in a February 2016 EMT program which was provided by American Ambulance as part of their contract with the Town of Berwick. That person has now completed that program and is awaiting testing with the National Registry in the near future.

The Department's 2 Junior Firefighters have now



also completed the 200 hour program for Firefighter 1&2 thru the Sanford Regional Vocational system however, neither are

approved to perform those duties until turning the age of 18 and completing the department orientation program.

Maine Department of Labor requires all Fire Apparatus Drivers / Operators to be recertified every 3 years. This continues to be a priority and is an ongoing effort in getting those individuals recertified on Driving Apparatus.

Fire Prevention:

Conducting Wood Stove / Fire Safety Inspections, when requested by residents: Issued, inspected, and approved 52 open burning and seasonal camp fire permits for residents. One wood stove inspection.



Calls for Service:

Staff responded to 75 calls for service involving Fire & EMS June 26, 2016 thru July 25, 2016.

10 Calls for EMS missed due to availability of EMS staff after hours / weekends. American Ambulance or a mutual aid Ambulance were first responders for those calls.

Town Emergency Management Activities:

Received copies of MSAD 60 updated crises response plans for all 3 Berwick schools. Over a period of time, these plans will be inserted into the Town's Emergency Management Plan. (On going)

Station:

Heat and smoke detectors have been installed. Other small renovations are either in the planning stages or have been completed to allow for the proposed 24/7 shift coverage. The majority of this work is being completed by our own staff. One task remains which involves the enclosing of stairway to second floor.

Water Department – Chris Weismann, Chief Operator

As of the end of July, the area around Berwick at the southern tip of Maine was considered to be in a “severe drought”. Forecasts don’t suggest a change is coming in August, either. It’s always good to practice water conservation, but there’s no shortage in our source water, the Salmon Falls River. We’ll let you know if the situation changes.

Summer at the Water Department often involves fielding several complaints about “color” in the water—frequently “black” or “grey”, and sometimes “yellow”. Although we’d like to hear from everyone who gets discolored water, it’s more often the case that there’s nothing we can do. Here’s what most likely going on:

1. As the summer wears on, the rate of flow in the Salmon Falls River is reduced.
2. Slow-moving water allows anaerobic (very low, or zero, dissolved oxygen) conditions to develop next to the sediments in the river.
3. Iron and manganese that are mixed in with the sediments dissolve into this water. That is, like sugar dissolves in tea, the minerals enter the flow of the water and no longer are particles.
4. The water treatment plant treats and filters this water, but much of the iron and manganese goes through the filter.
5. Right after the filter, we add chlorine to disinfect the water.

6. Besides killing viruses and bacteria, the chlorine also *oxidizes* the iron and manganese—changing it from an invisible dissolved form to a potentially visible particle form.
7. Water with minute particles of iron or manganese can be pumped out of the plant and enter the distribution system, possibly arriving in your faucet, or settling out, and when the water in the pipes moves faster than usual, suddenly turning the water black.

We don’t have the capability to fix this currently, but it is part of what we’re hoping to add to the plant in the future.

Four technical people from the company that makes the filters in our water treatment plant will be coming by in a few days. They’re in the area making a presentation at Kittery Water District, which is considering adding “ballasted sedimentation” to their process, and our engineer will bring them by here afterwards. Ballasted sedimentation is a way to clear unwanted stuff out of water by adding weight to the stuff, using fine particles of sand. Once the sand is attached, the stuff you don’t want falls quickly to the bottom. It’s one of the technologies that could help us make better water.



BCTV – Timothy Cremmen, Coordinator

Berwick Community Television has been working on the Franchise Agreement between Comcast and the Town of Berwick. Beyond that we have been working to make it easier for the community to watch their town meetings. Starting in the month of August you will now be able to catch both your Board of Selectmen and Planning Board Meetings on the Berwick Community Television web page. For more information, please go to http://www.berwickmaine.org/index.asp?SEC=27AA2354-5BFF-444B-8035-C76282A0D040&Type=B_BASIC .

Over the next few months, we will be working with other departments to highlight what they do and help the community to get a better understanding of each department. We will also be working with the Planning Department to highlight the progress that is being made at the Prime Tanning site.

The Berwick Community Television Committee is always looking for new members and excited to gain new perspectives. If you want to be more involved with BCTV, our coordinator would be happy to give you more information. Call 207-715-0059 or email admin@bctv.comcastbiz.net.



Town Clerk's Office – Patricia Murray, Clerk

July was a busy vehicle registration month. Registration renewals for Berwick residents can be done at the Town Hall or on-line using the State's Rapid Renewal service (E-Check accepted). Please go to <https://www1.maine.gov/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/> for information and to get started!

Who can use this on-line service?

- **Registrants** with an excise-taxable vehicle who live in a participating municipality.
- **Registrants** with a commercial or passenger vehicle.
- **Registrants** with a non-taxable trailer.

What you will need:

- Your current vehicle registration
- Your insurance card
- Your vehicle's current mileage

Other on-line services offered include: (convenience fees may apply)

- Water and Property Tax bill payments: <https://epayment.informe.org/payportonline/welcome>
- Hunting and/or Fishing License: https://www4.informe.org/cgi-bin/online/moses_v3/index
- Boats, ATVs and Snowmobiles Renewals: http://www.state.me.us/ifw/atv_snowmobile_watercraft/watercraft.htm



Who can register and vote in Maine?

To **register**, you must be a United States citizen, at least 17 years of age, and have established a fixed principal home in Maine.

To **vote** in a Referendum or General Election, you must be registered in the community where you reside, and be at least 18 years of age. A 17 year old may vote in a Primary Election, if that person will be 18 by the General Election.

Where do I go to register?

You can register to vote at Berwick Town Hall, through any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state & federal social service agencies, or at voter registration drives.

Completed voter registration cards may be hand delivered or mailed to your town office, or sent to the Secretary of State's Office in Augusta.

Is there a deadline for registering?

There is no cut-off date for registering to vote **in person** at your town office. If you want to register to vote by mail or through a voter registration drive, the cut-off date is the close of business on the 21st day before the election. That date is **Tuesday, October 18, 2016 for the General Election.**

When is the next election?

**The General Election is Tuesday November 8, 2016.
Polls in Berwick are open from 6:00am until 8:00pm.**

Office of Community Development and Planning – John Stoll, Director

Prime Tanning Brownfields Project Update:

EnviroVantage is now onsite and beginning the initial work to demolish buildings on lots 4, 5, and 6. It may be some time before the public will see any actual building demolition. Crede, LLC, and EnviroVantage are working on asbestos abatement within the building prior to demolition.

Planning Board:

The Planning Board is currently reviewing an application for two 6-unit apartment buildings at 119 Cemetery Road. The Board has scheduled a public hearing and consensus workshop for this item on August 18th. The workshop will be at 5:30 pm and the public hearing will be at 6:30 pm.

Board of Appeals: No appeals pending at this time.



Public Works Department – Robert Perschy, Foreman

The Public Works Department has spent most of the month of July preparing the roads for paving which is planned to start July 18th. The crew has been working on Diamond Hill, Wentworth, Beech Ridge and Pond Roads ditching, putting in



new culverts, and removing trees from the town right-of-way. They have done an outstanding job. Unfortunately Boulanger Paving, Inc. has been delayed as the pavement reclaiming machine that they rent has been in the shop waiting for new parts. They have been delayed what we consider an unreasonable amount of time. Paving is now scheduled to start in August. The Public Works crew is continuing tree removal and ditching along some of our other roads throughout town that we are expecting to pave next year. Roadside mowing and crack sealing is scheduled to start next month.

This early July we had some torrential rainfall that caused a number of washouts along roads requiring a lot of time and material to repair damage. The Public Works crew has also been

working on the islands on Sullivan Street by removing the pavement and preparing them for loam and new plantings. Some of the work will be done at night when traffic is low.

We had a new part-time person work for us this summer who is mowing all of the town's property throughout Berwick. Ian Dudley is a Berwick young man who has done a great job for us. Hopefully we can entice him to come back next year.

We have had problems with beavers this summer building dams within some of our culverts. We have removed several with live traps and relocated them. Hopefully they won't come back.

The Town parking lots next to the town office are slated for changes as recommended by our transportation engineering study. We are expecting to join the two lots into one and increase the number of parking spaces and the flow of traffic entering and exiting. To complete the project several trees which are dying, will be removed.

