

BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES AUGUST 16, 2011

Members Present: Selectmen Crichton, Ramsey, Murphy, Chambers, Elton

Others: TM Trefethen, TC Buckman, Attorney Alan Shepard, David & Nathan Bateman (Bateman Partners, LLC) and 25 members of the general public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION Elton second Chambers "approve minutes of August 2, 2011 as presented and reviewed" passed 5-0.

REVIEW SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Two hours were devoted so the Public could ask questions and the folks present could answer questions related to the Special Town Meeting Warrant for August 24, 2011. The Town is seeking the ability to convey town property for the cleaning of Town Property (Old Berwick High School) of known environmental hazards. The Town is also seeking the ability to enter into a ground lease from the approved 75 years provided in 2009 to 99 years as requested by the developer as a condition of some funding he has secured from Maine State Housing Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Oscar Stone asked about the maintenance and safety concerns on the Prime Property.

Resident Peter Perri asked about an update on the RFP for the Fire Station.

COMMUNICATION

Non action taken but the Board asked the Manager to invite John Campbell to their next meeting to discuss the Litter Ordinance he provided to the town for consideration.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNT PAYABLE WARRANTS

MOTION Elton second Chambers "approve warrants #1205, #1206" passed 5-0.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

None, Manager did inform the Board that COMCAST had spoken to Derek Gould from the Cable TV Committee on location of a Studio.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Modification of Tax Acquired Property Policy: Additional changes were made to Article #4 of the Policy. Board asked the Manager to provide a clean copy for review and possible implementation.

Prime Parking Lot on a Town Warrant: The Board is still trying to determine if they wish to revisit this approval again. Manager informed them that the Auditor did not wish to render an opinion to

determine if the funds remain for this purchase. MMA Legal has informed the Town that in their opinion if the Warrant Article did not have the phrase “non-Lapsing” in the body of the warrant approval that the funds lapsed at the end of the fiscal year that the article was approved. Town Attorney Alan Shepard was been asked to comment on this matter as well. *MOTION Crichton second Murphy “put on ballot again seeking town approval” motion failed 2-3.*

NEW BUSINESS

Setting of Tax Rate: Based on information shared by the Assessors Agent a range of Tax Rates was established by the Assessors and a recommendation on the appropriate rate was provided. A rate of \$14.30/1,000 was recommended. Discussion took place on if the town should consider a rate larger then what was recommended in order to provide additional funding in the fund balance. *MOTION Chambers second Elton “establish tax rate of \$14.30/1,000 for the 2011/12 Fiscal Year” passed 4-1.*

ABATEMENTS/SUPPLEMENTALS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Peg Wheeler feels that the MMA Opinion on the Parking Lot Article is the opinion that board should consider.

Resident Peter Perri asked about the status of the Dispatch Center in South Berwick. Berwick is a partner in the operation of the Center and South Berwick may be considering other option for this service.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION Elton second Chambers “to adjourn” passed 5-0 @ 9:49PM

Respectfully Submitted

Keith M. Trefethen

Town Manager

