

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

The month of June ends our fiscal year and is a time when we start gearing up for the upcoming year and especially our public works projects. We had a very good month getting through our referendum votes for the School Department, Town Budget, new Ordinances and updates.

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work on getting through the budget and election process. I also would like to thank the citizens that turned out to support the municipal budget. The budget contained a lot of projects for the upcoming year and also items that we will address looking into the future. The Selectmen and the Budget Committee provided valued input making sure we maintained the level of service citizens ask for as well as addressing our future needs. We are faced with changes that required the need to add more staff. Public Safety is on the top of our list that needed to be addressed. The Police Department additional staff person will hopefully help in fighting the drug epidemic that we are facing throughout the state. The Fire Department is changing their schedule to a 24/7 to provide coverage for the increased calls for service and shortage of our on call staff.

The Prime Tanning Project has been the most exciting activity for June. We were awarded another \$600,000 Brownfield Grant that should finish the cleanup. The Board of Selectmen awarded the demolition contract to EnvironVantage which has been prepping the site and will have equipment on site in mid- July and start to remove the buildings. We have met several times with Mark Kehaya, Fund of Jupiter, CEO and he is excited about the progress we have made. Mark is expecting to start taking a more active role in the redevelopment of the site moving forward. We are talking with several different prospective businesses that are interested in moving onto the site when it is ready. Those include a gastro-pub, a small grocery store and a brewer. John Stoll, Director of Community Development and Planning and I are talking with other prospective clients. Frank Underwood, Envision Berwick Committee, continues to be in high gear working with us on numerous infrastructure projects for the site as well as talking with businesses.

The Envision Berwick Committee with it affiliate groups such as the River Front Committee have continued to add to the quality of our recreation opportunities in town. We have been designated an AARP Community, one of only 8 other communities in the State. We still have a lot of work to do but we have not slowed down.

We welcome Rebecca England our new selectperson and are looking forward to working with her. New energy and ideas are always a positive thing. The Board of Selectmen is excited as it appears to add to a cohesive group. Department heads and I are preparing to provide an in-service with Rebecca to bring her up to date with all that is happening. The Board of Selectmen will revisit their short and long term goals this summer to review what has been accomplished this past year and what their priorities are moving forward.

Check out the other department's news and don't forget my door is always open if you have any questions or concerns.

Finance Office – Maureen Finger, Director

The following are items of interest:

- Prepared 30-day Tax Collector's Lien Notices for mailing on July 8, 2016. Currently there are 310 notices ready for mailing. Tax Liens will be filed August 9, 2016.
- Quarterly water billing is being processed and will be mailed by June 30th
- Audit field work was done by RHR Smith on June 28 with the Town's internal controls looked at as well as testing of accounts payable and payroll. The Town's annual audit will be done the week of August 22.
- Pay rate and benefit changes paperwork has been prepared and will be entered into the payroll system for the first of the new fiscal year
- Hiring of new personnel approved at Town Meeting is underway with interviews scheduled for the Town Clerk, Water & Planning, and Fire Dept. positions.
- Preliminary work has been started on the bond application for the Fall 2016 Maine Bond Bank bond issuance.
- During the month of June I updated by year-end projections weekly. It is anticipated that all departmental budgets will come in under their appropriated balance, while certain revenues will exceed their estimates.

Water Department – Chris Weismann, Chief Operator

It's been a dry month, and flow in the Salmon Falls River has declined steadily. On the 29th the flow at Milton, New Hampshire was only 9 cubic feet per second, down from 52 cfs two weeks before. There's still more than enough water for the Berwick and Somersworth Water Departments, but it is a surprisingly slow flow. If you could make the entire river flow into the bed of a full size pickup truck, it would take about 7 seconds to fill it to overflowing. Count that out, 1 to 7, and you'll see just how slow the river is. It's coming early in the summer, too.

Besides pumping out above average amounts of water, we've replaced an obsolete computer at the water treatment plant this month; had most of our important blueprints scanned, and bought back-up chemical pumps for quick replacement if a pump fails.

The water bills for the second quarter have just been mailed out, and include a link to the Water Department's 2015 Water Quality Report. It tells about the testing we did last year, and other general facts about the water we provide. Take a look at it on line, or pick up a hard copy at the Town Hall. We're happy to answer any questions you have.

Town Clerk's Office – Patricia Murray, Clerk

June was a busy Election month with the State Primary and the Annual Town Meeting. A little over 300 voters showed at the polls. All Articles on the Town Warrant passed. For election results please go to http://www.berwickmaine.org/index.asp?SEC=0A97B7DC-7AB3-4245-B139-1001EFEA3D43&Type=B_BASIC

New Hours at Town Hall

Starting June 27, 2016, Town Hall will be open:

Mondays - 8:30 - 6:00

Tuesdays - 8:30 - 5:00

Wednesdays - 8:30 - 5:00

Thursdays - 8:30 - 6:00

Fridays – 8:30 – 11:00

Office of Community Development and Planning – John Stoll, Director

Prime Tanning Brownfields Project Update: The Town has selected EnvironVantage as the demolition contractor for the Prime Tanning Brownfields Site. EnvironVantage is an experienced environmental remediation company with offices in Epping, NH and Westbrook, Maine. We expect phase 1 of the demolition to begin the week of July 11th and then finish in approximately 8 weeks.

Planning Board: The Berwick Planning Board most recently approved the following applications:

- 1.) The Board approved a conditional use application for a multi-use industrial facility at 420 Portland Street.
- 2.) The Planning Board is currently reviewing an application for two 6-unit apartment buildings at 119 Cemetery Road.

Board of Appeals: No applications pending

Public Works Department – Robert Perschy, Foreman

The Public Works Department had a light winter which has allowed us to get started on our road projects. We started out the month doing our annual catch basin clean out, street sweeping and miscellaneous culvert replacement and adding material to our road edges that were washed out this spring. We have also started on our paving projects which has occupied most of our time.

The crew has started working on Diamond Hill Road preparing it for reclaiming and paving. We have removed a number of trees on the roadside and started ditching. Ditching is one of the most important aspects of rebuilding roads as it will remove water from the road. We are expecting to add a lot of material mixed with the reclaimed material to the road to build a solid base. We started working on Wentworth Road doing much of the same; ditching, removing trees and replacing culverts. Reclaiming and paving will begin July 18th on Diamond Hill and Wentworth Roads followed by Beech Ridge and Pond Roads. The PW crew has done an excellent job preparing these roads. Once these are done they will move on to other roads ditching and crack sealing. Pike Paving will be coming back this summer to repair the work they did last summer.

We are also planning on doing some beautification this summer. The islands on Sullivan Street are having the asphalt removed and replaced with some trees, shrubs and other plantings. We will be working on the parking area next to the town hall to try and increase the number of spaces and dress it up a bit. Plantings are a donation from Salmon Falls Nursery.