



BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES
South Berwick Town Hall Auditorium
6:30 p.m.

June 19, 2013 Public Workshop: Towns of Berwick & South Berwick

I. Introductions

Members of the South Berwick Town Council were introduced by Perry Ellsworth, South Berwick Town Manager, and members of the Berwick Board of Selectmen introduced themselves. Also present: Patrick Venne, Berwick Town Manager. Selectman Robert Crichton was absent from the workshop.

II. South Berwick Proposal for Route 4 Patrols

The Board and Council (hereafter "Board") discussed a recent accident on Route 4 as the basis of a desire to explore joint coverage of the road by both towns. The possibility of joint 'swearing-ins' and a memorandum of understanding were both discussed in this context.

III. Ongoing Discussion of Future Dispatch Center Options/Opportunities

The Board's discussion regarding Route 4 evolved into a more robust conversation about broader opportunities for collaboration, and topics ranging from dispatch to a study by SMRPC on regionalization efforts in the area. Chair O'Connor indicated he was open to exploring further opportunities for collaboration, citing the Code Enforcement Officer as an example of collaboration already in place. Selectman Haley indicated the Police Department is the largest component of municipal operations and should be looked at first.

Mr. Ellsworth proposed a working group to continue the discussion. A member of the South Berwick Council proposed a deadline of December 1, 2013 to have proposals ready for consideration in time for budget season. Chair O'Connor voiced agreement with this, and Mr. Ellsworth suggested an earlier deadline aimed at clarifying what was being worked on and what data would be involved. This deadline relates to a proposal of Mr. Ellsworth to explore consolidation of the two towns' police departments, which members of both boards emphasized should be through attrition, if it occurs. Mr. Venne indicated the discussion should be data driven and many were in agreement. Chair O'Connor asked what the first step to this exploratory discussion should be, and Mr. Ellsworth proposed a committee of the two town managers, the two police chiefs, and two Board members from each community, saying the process should not be top-down. Selectman Haley inquired if there were other examples of consolidated police forces, and Eliot/Kittery was discussed as one example, while Lewiston-Auburn was discussed as another.

The Board consensus appeared to be that a committee should be formed to explore the opportunities for collaboration in connection with general police operations and dispatch, and that it should include two Board members. The consensus also appeared to be that the two managers, Mr. Venne and Mr. Ellsworth, should work with the two police chiefs and submit an interlocal agreement related to patrolling Route 4 within the next six weeks.

V. Closing Remarks/Non-Agenda Items

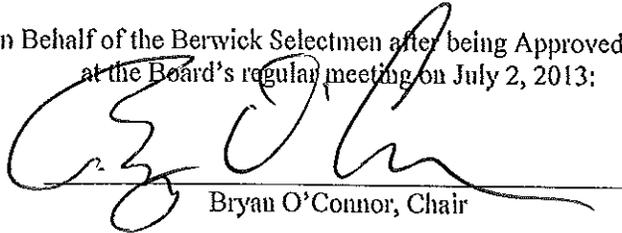
A member of the South Berwick Town Council broached the subject of a shared transfer station, and Selectwoman Murphy indicated this has been looked at before and should be looked at again.

Briefly before adjourning, the topic of staggered hours and days at Berwick Town Hall was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Both Boards adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Signed on Behalf of the Berwick Selectmen after being Approved as Submitted
at the Board's regular meeting on July 2, 2013;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan O'Connor", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Bryan O'Connor, Chair