BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2015

I. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL: Chairman Wright, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman Pendergast
ABSENT: Selectman Plante
OTHERS PRESENT: Interim Town Manager Bruce Benway, Town Clerk Jo Anne Lepley

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. May 19, 2015 BOS Meeting Minutes

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to approve the May 19, 2015 minutes as submitted.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

III. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Wright – Chairman Wright announced that the Town has been awarded a $600,000 Brownfields grant for the Prime Tanning property. The funds will not be released until the new Federal fiscal year in October.

Chairman Wright announced that the BOS has a finalist for the Town Manager position.

Selectman Pendergast – Selectman Pendergast stated that the Soccer Committee had approached him about utilizing the old athletic field by the Police Department. Chairman Wright stated that would be an excellent use of the field. The Town Manager will look into making that happen.

Selectman Pendergast also stated that he and the Town Planner, John Stoll had attended the Salmon Falls Collaborative Workshop. He explained about a grant available through the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) for storm water and watershed ordinance preparation. Mr. Stoll suggested submitting a proposal for $5,000 and the Town would have to have a cash match of $1250 (25%). Selectmen Pendergast and Wright explained how much the Salmon Falls Watershed needed protecting. Selectman Ganiere went over some of the proposed ordinance items in the BOS' memo from Mr. Stoll. The Town Manager stated that the $1250 match could be taken from fund balance.

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Pendergast to allow the Town Planner to apply for a $5,000 PREP grant.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING – NONE

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. BCTV Committee – NONE

b. Envision Berwick Committee (EBC)

Paul & Pat Boisvert – The KACTS meeting and site walk took place last Wednesday. The two suggestions, so far, have been a round-a-bout and to combine the State owned parking lot with the Town owned parking lot. Mr. Boisvert stated that the round-a-bout would be a "low speed" one and it would replace the light at the bridge and would allow for continual movement of traffic. By combing the two parking areas, some of the downtown parking issues would be alleviated.

Ms. Boisvert stated that the volunteer water testing group has set the dates and they are looking for volunteers. The NH DES supplies the test kits; this is the only Maine group. The dates for the testing are: June 23rd, July 16th, August 18th and September 17th. If anyone is interested they may contact Ms. Boisvert.

Nichole Fecteau – Ms. Fecteau presented updates for the Riverfront and Trails sub-committees:

Riverfront – To date the Riverfront Committee has raised $10,520 with another $3,750 donation on the way. Several residents and businesses have donated products and services. The hearing before the Planning Board is Thursday night at 6:30 p.m.

Trails – The cleanup of the Goodrich Trail took place. Ms. Fecteau stated that the group will be facilitating talks with the "Sober" House regarding the use of the row for the Goodrich Trail. Currently it is gated.

Ms. Fecteau asked that a crosswalk be painted from the corner at the library and over to the other side to connect with the Penny Pond Trail. She would also like the crosswalk that is part of the Goodrich Trail to be repainted. The Town Manager will take care of these items.

Chairman Wright updated everyone on the Workforce Housing Coalition. They have met with the EBC and they are working on a concept plan that will contain elements of a "mixed use" with shops/storefronts on the ground floor and living quarters on the upper floors. The charrette for the concept plan to be shown to the Town's residents is scheduled for October 14-16. The new Executive Director of the Workforce Coalition, Robin Cook would like to meet with the BOS

USDA's Mike Jennings would like to do a workshop on Tax Increment Financing (TIF).

VI. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/OTHER GUESTS

a. Berwick Sewer District Budget – Jay Wheeler

Mr. Wheeler was present to go over the Sewer District's Budget and to answer any questions members of BOS may have.

Selectman Pendergast stated that as far has he could tell, more than half of the budget was for salaries and benefits. Mr. Wheeler stated that next year the salaries will not be as high; they have kept a retiree on to train the younger crew currently working at the plant. There are:

2 Operators
1 full-time office person
1 ½-time office person

1 Environmental Engineer

Trustees are paid $50 per meeting and meet once a month.

There was discussion as to why the plant does not encourage the processing of outside the district waste as happens in South Berwick. Mr. Wheeler explained that the South Berwick plant is set up a lot differently than Berwick's with a much larger capacity. Even if the plants were similar in operating, the license that Berwick has limits them to 11,000 gallons per day.

There was discussion regarding the capacity and the fact that Prime Tanning had closed. Mr. Wheeler stated that maintaining the viability of the entire plant was an economic development selling point for the Town. He and the District Board are working hard to make what they deal with today a more efficient process and maintain the larger system for future development.

Selectman Crichton brought up the topic of "water based billing" stating that it was a more equitable form of billing.

Selectman Ganiere stated that the term "betterment fee" was not a term that had a lot of transparency and that he would like the wording more specific to what the funds being requested from the Town would be used for. As it stands now, the money appears to be a subsidy to offset debt service.

There were further questions regarding upgrading the license, cutting the budget, and fee increases.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Possible setting of Special Town Meeting Date and Approval of Special Town Meeting Warrant

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Wright and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to approve Article 2 as presented of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

The motion carried on a vote of 3 – 1 (Crichton)

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Wright and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to approve Article 3 as presented of the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

The motion carried on a vote of 3 – 1 (Crichton)

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Wright and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to set the date and time of the Special Town meeting as June 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS – NONE

IX. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

A/P WARRANT	**1547**	**$58,680.53**
WATER WARRANT	**0547**	**$1,391.44**
PAYROLL WARRANT	**1548**	**$54,064.90**
A/P WARRANT	**1548**	**$33,151.07**
WATER WARRANT	**0548**	**$5,141.29**
PAYROLL WARRANT	**1549**	**$51,281.55**

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Wright and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to approve the A/P Warrants as presented.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

X. New Business

a. Possible setting of Special Town Meeting Date and Approval of Special Town Meeting Warrant – Earlier in the Agenda

b. Hubbard Road Project – Construction Overlimit Permit Signing

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Pendergast to sign the Overlimit Permit requested by MDOT for Hubbard Road Construction.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Pendergast to have the Town Manager request a $1,000,000.00 bond for the possible damage to local roads caused by the overweight construction equipment and trucks for the project.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

XI. QUITCLAIM DEEDS AND INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS

a. Quitclaim Deed 2013 Tax Lien RE: R071-010-000-000

b. Quitclaim Deed 2012 & 2013 Tax Liens RE: R059-004-000-000

c. Quitclaim Deed 2013 Tax Lien RE: R059-004-00A-000

Motion: It was moved by Chairman Wright and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to accept all Quitclaim Deeds presented.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

XII. ABATEMENTS/SUPPLEMENTALS –NONE

XIII. SECONDE PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NONE

XV. OTHER BUSINESS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to adjourn.

The motion carried unanimously; 4 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The June 2, 2015 BOS Meeting Minutes
Signed as approved at the Board's June 16, 2015 Meeting
On behalf of the Board

Thomas Wright, Chairman, Berwick Board of Selectmen