

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

We have been very fortunate to have had a month of warm weather and the needed rain to help with the drought. Everyone seemed to get through the 2016 Election which was wearing on our country. Democracy once again is experiencing the transition of leadership that has been a bit more eventful than some others, but is still a model for the world to watch and admire.

The Town has continued to stay busy. The Town Clerk's Office and the staff did a great job getting us through the election. It was one of the smoothest elections the Selectmen have seen and we received a number of compliments from residents. We had a record turnout. Great Job!

The Public Works Department has finished up most of their road work this month. They still have paving around some replaced culverts to do before the snow flies. They have prepared the equipment for the winter and made sure the salt shed was full. We filled the shed early this year with good prices before prices went up. The crew accomplished a lot this summer and fall and I look forward to our next season of road work. Robert Perschy, Public Works Foreman, and I looked at several bridges this fall, Ridlon Rd and Diamond Hill (Prayer Bridge), with an engineer from CLD and later

on with the MDOT. Both bridges need some work but we will wait to hear from the MDOT before we plan for any repairs.

The Water Department has stayed on top of the manganese problems and is working with Wright Pierce Engineering to develop and implement a system to take care of this in the future. I thank the staff for their hard work and responsiveness to our citizens.

The Prime Tanning site took on a whole new face. They have made good progress in the Phase I cleanup and we look forward to the start of Phase II next month. Mark Kehaya, Fund of Jupiter continues to talk with developers and hopefully he will start meeting with the 3-4 groups that are interested in building on this site.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and are getting ready for the coming holidays. For more department details check out the department head reports. It is a pleasure serving the citizens of Berwick.

Water Department – Chris Weismann, Chief Operator

The temperature of the river water has reached 43 degrees. You may notice that there's less chlorine in the water now than there was in the summer, when the river water briefly touched 75 degrees. That's because the chemical reactions that use up the chlorine are slower when the temperature is lower, so we don't have to add as much to keep the water safe.

An inspector from the Maine Drinking Water Program spent four hours checking to ensure that our water treatment system was continuing to produce safe water. She was happy with what we were doing, and told us there were no deficiencies. It's a requirement every three years.

We used stainless steel cables to tie our propane tank down onto its slab, putting into effect a recommendation from a resiliency study that said that without being restrained, the tank could float away in a flood.

The disinfection by-product tests we conduct on the water every three months came back, and the numbers were unusually low—just half of what they were a year ago at this time. That's a great improvement, even if we're talking about "parts per billion" (If you could order a 15-inch pizza, that pizza would be "one part per billion" of the distance to the moon). The chemical dose we were using was designed to create the smallest amount of by-products, but it's equally likely that the unusual weather and the drought contributed to the good numbers.

In the early hours one morning, the 6-inch service line from the water main on Blackberry Hill Road to the Hussey School broke open. Several hours later we were called out by police dispatch to check "water coming up through the ground" in the school's parking lot.

- After we dug up the leaking service line, we cut out the section with the hole in it and replaced it with a new piece of ductile iron pipe, held in place by two very effective couplings (at \$467.00 each).
- The section with the hole was taken back to the treatment plant for a closer look: except for the area near the hole the pipe was in great shape.
- The hole was odd, also. It looked like the sort of depression you can make with an ice cream scoop on the top of a brand-new container of ice cream—if you try to make very shallow scoops, and after a few of those, go back and make a deeper scoop in the middle of the shallow ones.
- It didn't look at all like a break that was caused by a wave of high pressure water, or years of messy, rough corrosion. That's when we did some research, looking at pictures on-line.
- It turns out what put the hole in the service line was "stray current corrosion" which is caused when there's a little bit of electric current unintentionally running through a metal water pipe underground.
- If you've noticed that your home electrical system is grounded on your

Police Department – Timothy Towne, Chief

The police officers are completing their mandated training requirements for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. Each year the officers must complete training in four or five topic areas that were selected by the Maine Chiefs of Police. Two of these segments, firearms qualifications and Maine and Federal Law updates, reoccur from year to year. The other topics change annually. This year the three additional topics are, Implicit Human Bias's, Autism Education for Law Enforcement and Roadside Legal Considerations. In addition, the officers must complete training in elective topics to meet the semi-annual training hour total of 40 hours. It is worthy to note that this is the minimum amount of training required by the State. All full and part time officers are required to complete this training in order to maintain their certification within the State of Maine. Our officers complete additional training throughout the year in order to keep them abreast of changes in law enforcement. We are fortunate to have numerous officers who are certified instructors able to instruct in a wide range of topic areas.

The ATV details that were funded by the State are over for this year. Weather

permitting, we will still be conducting random patrols through the month of December. The new ATV has worked excellent for our department. It has allowed us to patrol some areas of Town that we were not previously able to reach.

We have completed some construction on our Berwick Police Department website. We had been receiving concerns from the public that certain parts of the site were not working correctly. Officer Michael Howie took on the task of addressing those concerns. We are sure that you will find the site to work correctly, appear slightly different and contain some new additions. Please take a look at it and let us know what you think. There will be a few more modifications and additions coming to it in the near future.

Fire Department – Dennis Plante, Chief

Present Staff Levels: 29 & 3 juniors

One out on medical leave

Apparatus / Equipment Status:

New Fire Apparatus vehicle specifications have been developed, reviewed and sent out on October 30, 2016 with a return date of December 15, 2016.

Vehicle extraction tool removed from service due to hydraulic pump safety issues. This Unit is 16 years old with a life span of 10 years. That being the case, the availability of repair parts is unknown at this time and is being explored by the vendor. An estimate of \$7,000 was provided if parts can be found. A replacement unit runs \$35,000 to \$40,000.

All Self Contained Breathing Apparatus are due for annual flow testing which is scheduled for December 6, 2016. This is another Mandate by MDOL.

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-service fire inspection program as recommended by the Fire Study Team, when staffing and funding levels are available.

Recruitment:

No active recruitment at this time.

Training

Firefighter Turner and Libby have finished with their basic EMT program and are

awaiting National Registry testing opportunities. Firefighter Turner passed her Basic EMT and recently received her Maine EMS license. Libby is scheduled to take his final test on November 29, 2016.

The Department has received recognition over the last 8 years by the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) for the Department's efforts in our Safety & Health programs. As a result, the Department has received the MDOL Safety & Health Award for Public Employees (SHAPE).

This award recognizes the Department for promoting and consistently improving conditions for the safety and health of employees. MDOL will be here on January 18, 2017 to again conduct a review of the Department's Safety and Health efforts as part of our renewal process.

It is anticipated our 2 new On Call staff will be attending the York County Chiefs Association Firefighter 1 & 2 program in December 2016. This program involves over 200 hours of training and is expected to last until June 2017.

Fire Prevention:

Conducting Wood Stove / Fire Safety Inspections, when requested by residents: Issued, inspected, and approved 65 open burning and seasonal camp fire permits for residents.

On November 7 & 8 2016, Firefighters and Sparky the Fire Dog spent all day teaching

the children at the Knowlton School with Fire Safety activities.

The Department staff also visited 2 local day care centers in town providing Fire Safety Programs.

Calls for Service:

Staff responded to 80 calls for service involving Fire & EMS from October 24, 2016 thru November 27, 2016.

Town Emergency Management Activities:

Continuing to review and updated existing Emergency Management Plans when time permits.

Station:

Two Firefighters have stepped up to start the renovations to the Radio room. This area is being renovated to make the area more user friendly.

Other:

The annual required Self Contained Breathing Apparatus fit testing was completed for all Fire and Water Department staff during the month.



Town Clerk's Office – Patricia Murray, Clerk



2016 Dog Licenses will be available at the Town Hall beginning October 15, 2015

All dogs 6 months and older must have a license. Every dog must be licensed by December 31st each year. In order to obtain a license for your dog, the owner must present a **current** Rabies Certificate obtained from a veterinarian (which has the veterinarian's seal on it.). This certificate will show that your dog has received its rabies shot within the past three years, the rabies tag number, the date of immunization and the rabies expiration date.

All dog licenses will expire December 31st each year. Renewal of licenses for the following year can be done at the Town Clerk's Office any time after October 15th.

To receive a license for your dog, please come into the Town Office during our normal business hours of:

Monday and Thursday 8:30am - 6:00pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 8:30am - 5:00pm

Friday 8:30am - 11:00am

Dog License Fees

\$6.00 per year for spayed/neutered dogs
\$11.00 per year for dogs NOT spayed/neutered

As of February 1st a \$25.00 late fee *PLUS* License Fee will be applied per State Law Title 7 §3923-A(4)

You may also re-license your dog through the mail. You must send a copy of the current Rabies Certificate, as well as evidence of spaying/neutering if we don't already have it on file, along with a check payable to the "Town of Berwick" for the appropriate fee, and a self-addressed, stamped envelope. We will process the license and return the material to you.

What dog licenses pay for:

Your dog licensing fees support:

- Local Animal Control Officers and State Humane Agents
- Investigation of animal cruelty complaints and enforcement of animal welfare laws
- Compliance with rabies vaccination of dogs
- Care for sick and injured stray animals
- Return of lost dogs to their owners

Hunting & Fishing Licenses - All Licenses Expire December 31st.

The Town Office issues Hunting and Fishing licenses to State of Maine residents **who live in BERWICK.**

Residency Requirements:

- Individuals may claim only one state or province as their legal residence.
- **Resident** means a citizen of the U.S., or an alien who has been so domiciled for one year.

You will not be considered a Maine resident unless:

- if registered to vote, registered in Maine;
- if licensed to drive a motor vehicle, made application for a Maine motor vehicle license;
- if owning a motor vehicle or vehicles located within the State, registered each such vehicle in Maine;
- complied with the State income tax laws; and
- If a full-time student at a Maine college or university, and satisfies above requirements.

Proof of Residency is required at time of purchase.

Anyone purchasing a hunting license is required to show:

Proof of a **previous hunting license**, or proof of Hunter Safety Course participation, and your **driver's license** (*Driver's License is required for purchasing a fishing license also.*)

The same rule applies to purchasing a Resident Archery License.

Hunting & Fishing Licenses may be purchased at the Town Office. Licenses may also be purchased on-line at the State's web site.

You can obtain the law books for Hunting & Fishing at the Town Office or from the State.

Toy Bank

The Berwick Volunteer Firefighters Association is now accepting new unwrapped toys for newborn to 12 years of age for our Toy Bank Program. Items can be dropped off by December 20th at the following locations: **Berwick Fire Department, Berwick Town Hall, North Berwick Auto Center, Halls Auto & Trailer/Libby's Auto Repair LLC, Farwell's Auto Service, Kennebunk Savings Bank, Berwick Public Library, Cumberland Farms and Mayo's Family Restaurant.**



Any money donations can be mailed to:
**Berwick Volunteer Firefighters Association
Toy Bank Program
P.O. Box 1214
Berwick, Me 03901**

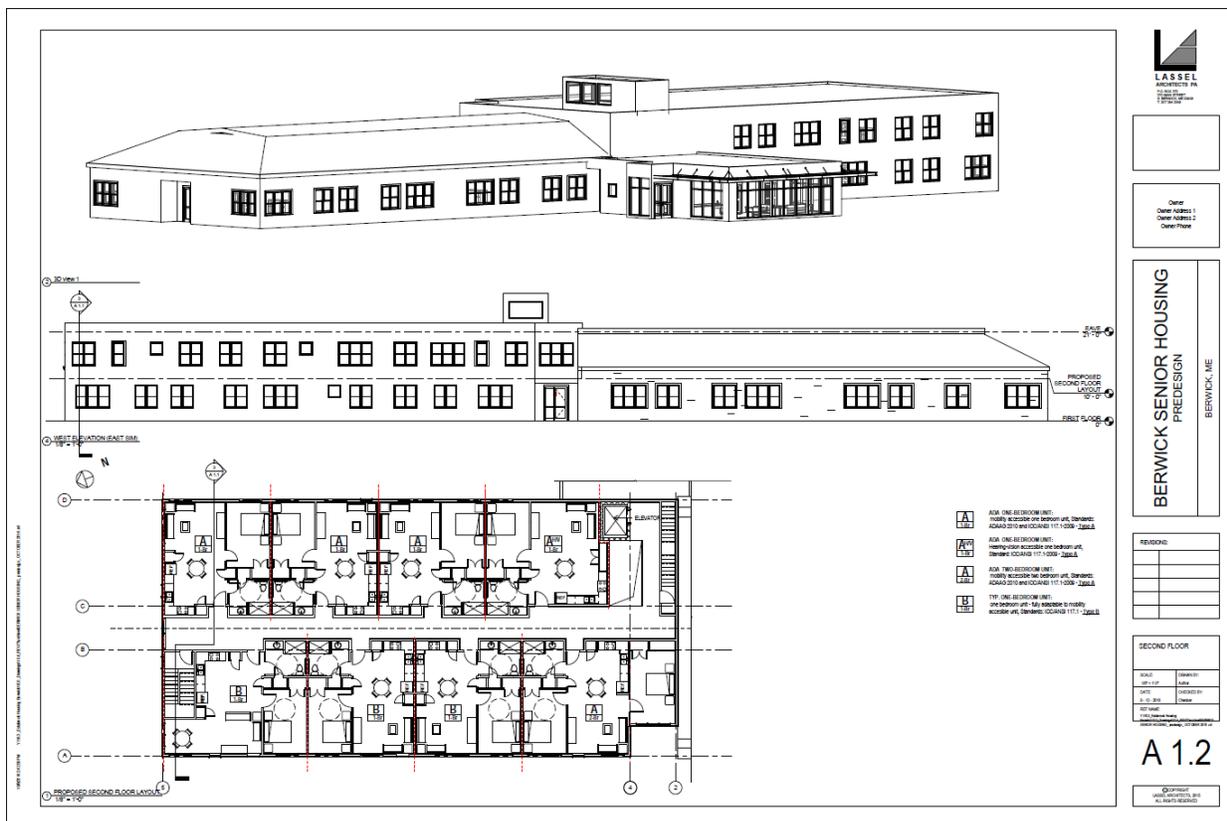
Applications for the Toy Bank Program can be picked up at the Berwick Town Hall. If you have any questions please call Town Hall at 698-1101.

Office of Community Development and Planning – John Stoll, Director

Prime Tanning Brownfields Project Update: We are finished with the predevelopment phase for the first Prime Tanning Brownfields Grant. Buildings have been demolished, slabs have been removed and crushed, and loam/seed has been placed on the Southern part of the lot. We will begin moving into the second grant application which will address the buildings on the Northern part of the Prime lot as well as the parking lot across Wilson Street. The CD&P Department submitted a supplemental grant application to Southern Maine Planning & Development for \$200,000 to assist with the cost of asbestos remediation and we expect to hear back from SMPDC soon.

Planning Board:

1.) The Planning Board has approved a proposed Elderly Housing facility at the former Estabrook School – 20 Wilson Street behind the existing Police Station. This project will include 22 one bedroom units and 2 two bedroom units. Voters approved the donation of the Estabrook School to the Housing Partnership at the November 8 election by referendum vote.



2.) The Planning Board has approved a proposed multi-family development at 119 Cemetery Road. This apartment development will consist of 12 market rate rental units.

Board of Appeals: The Board of Appeals will vote to reconsider an application for an administrative appeal on November 30 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Works Department – Robert Perschy, Foreman

We started the month of November collecting leaves from Town owned properties, cemeteries, Town Hall, and ditches where we have serious water problems. We also finished a few small ditching jobs.

Switching seasons meant we cleaned out the bodies of trucks by removing stuck in dirt and debris and making sure the body chains were functioning properly. We use these to dispense material on the road for winter. We also installed the head gear back on all six trucks and installed wings on five of the trucks.

We filled in with vehicle services and winterizing summer equipment on the maintenance end. On

the road end, we spent a few extra days on cold patching / hot topping problem areas.

The Rochester Street project, initiated a few years ago, made our entrance unsafe for locking the gate and exiting the property safely. We are happy to announce the fence has been set back and a new gate installed.

During winter, the gate will remain open a day or two after snow storms so Residents can get winter sand / salt. The gate will also be open 7am-3:30pm Monday - Friday during normal business hours.

