

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

September was a very busy time. We have seen a lot of changes at the Prime Tanning site. It is very exciting to see the activity and the interest it has created in several business areas. We had a comprehensive Marketing Study done as part of the Brownfield Grant and it identified several key areas for business development. Mark Kehaya, Owner, Fund of Jupiter was here for several days with his wife Hannah talking with developers and contractors. They were extremely busy and excited about discussing the possibilities and reviewing marketing study recommendations.

Our scheduled road projects for this year were completed and look good. Thank you to Public Works for all of the prep work they did. Belanger Paving, who was awarded the paving bid, did a great job. We will come back next year to put a top travel layer on these roads and also start on several other roads in our Paving Schedule.

The biggest issue we had this month was the increased manganese concentration in our public water supply. The Water Department and Wright-Pierce Engineering spent a lot of time working on the solution. As you can read on the Water Department Report they came up with a temporary fix. We will do whatever it takes to have a permanent solution to avoid any future issues. Hopefully we get some rain soon which will improve the river's flow.

The Town Office repairs we have made this year include removing some deteriorating brick in the auditorium and replacing it and sealing the outside and inside to prevent the movement of the wall. Our heating system which was replaced in 2014 has now had all internal pipes insulated and valves replaced and other work done so the pipes no longer sound like we have someone in the bathrooms hitting the pipes with a sledge hammer. All the radiators are working since these repairs were done. Window replacement is out to bid so we have our fingers crossed they will be done before winter. If not we will wait for spring.

We have scheduled the repairs to the clock (tower) for early November. It will require 4 new clock movements as well as faces and hands. It will be back lit (LED) so it will stand out at night. We have ordered LED lights for the auditorium to increase the lighting for events and to save energy. We have slowly started to do some electrical work replacing older wiring throughout Town Hall. The 2017-2018 budget will include more electrical work in the Town Office and Police Station.

I hope you all are watching the demolition as Berwick's Downtown will take on a whole new look.

Make sure you check out the Department Reports.

Steve

## **Finance Office – Maureen Finger, Director**

### **Finance Office**

Now that the tax liens have been filed, the tax bills generated and mailed, and the fiscal year 2016 audit work and draft financials are with the Town's auditors for review, the Finance Director has turned her attention to the upcoming budget season. Preliminary work for fiscal year 20185 has begun on the departmental budget worksheets and wage and benefit worksheets. However, there are still many unknown factors that we have to wait for such as; what the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (MEPERS) contribution rates will be effective July 1, 2017, the health insurance premiums for January 1, 2017, and final debt service figures, so we can go only so far at this time.

### **Bond Issue:**

After discussing the short-term financing options with the Town Manager, the Finance Director has decided to hold off on seeking short-term financing bids, i.e. bond anticipation notes or BANs at this time. We are waiting to receive the

bid results for the two Fire Trucks before making a final decision on whether to seek interim financing or to wait until the Spring Maine Municipal Bond Bank (MMBB) bond issue. The Board of Selectmen have passed a Bond Resolution that states it is the Town's intention to reimburse from bond proceeds any project expenditures incurred prior to issuing bonds with proceeds of one or more tax-exempt bonds in a cumulative maximum principal amount of \$1,125,000.

With the potential of cash flowing the project expenditures prior to issuing the bonds, the Finance Director hopes to save on the costs associated with utilizing the Bond Counsel to bid out the short-term financing as well as any other legal costs associated with interim financing and interest expense on the short-term borrowing. Although these costs would be reimbursable with bond proceeds, the Finance Director prefers to utilize bond proceeds to cover as much of the project expenditures as possible and limit the amount needed for bond issuance costs.



## Water Department – Chris Weismann, Chief Operator

It's surprising but true: there aren't any problems in water treatment. Every challenge that you could imagine has been confronted and solved—somewhere in the world. Desalinization of seawater is proceeding on a massive scale. Direct and complete wastewater reuse as drinking water is a reality. Even harvesting moisture from the air to provide drinking water is feasible. The only problem remaining isn't technical, and every water provider in the world has it: how to get the most for every dollar they spend.

The Water Department's brilliantly simple and practically cost-free solution to the manganese problem is just the beginning of a permanent and more costly way to keep manganese out of the drinking water. Now that we know that an extreme drought—such as Berwick is currently experiencing—causes an unprecedented level of manganese in the river water, we're taking action to make sure it doesn't happen again. We know we can order a \$250,000 solution off-the-shelf, but we also know we can solve the problem for a lot less. That's the hard part. But it will happen, and by next summer there will be no chance of it happening again.

An unexpected benefit of the water intake modifications we built to reduce manganese is that the enhanced water quality has improved our basic water treatment: lowering the cost and improving the removal of organic matter. Because our operators are constantly monitoring the water, we noticed a difference right away and began experimenting with the best way to take advantage of it. We don't know if the change will continue past the first big rain, but we've learned something valuable that we hope to incorporate permanently.

The drought continues, but as long as there's Salmon Falls river water flowing past Stone Dam in downtown Berwick, the Water Department believes there's no justification for conservation measures. If Berwick water consumers used less, more river water would flow past the dam—water we could have used. Do you agree with this position? We'd like to hear from you. Give us a call at 698-1231, email us at [berwickwater@gmail.com](mailto:berwickwater@gmail.com), or use our Facebook page.



## **Police Department – Timothy Towne, Chief**

On Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> the police department conducted a safety checkpoint on School Street. The focus of the event was impaired drivers. This was one component of a month long grant which was funded through the Maine Department of Highway Safety. During the grant period three people were charged with drug possession, one of which had 10 ounces of marijuana. Numerous other less serious charges also took place during the month. In addition, 51 moving violation and motor vehicle defect warnings were also issued.

On Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> the Pumpkin Man Triathlon made its way through portions of Berwick in the same manner as it has for several years now. The event has been growing in size each year. The event had to be stopped midway through due to a rather uncooperative weather episode that made the road conditions unsafe for bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Wilfred “Bill” Vachon to fill the new position approved this year. Officer Vachon grew up in Berwick and still resides in this community. He

started his law enforcement career here in our department in 1993 and worked for us until 2001. Since that time he has worked for the Kittery Police Department and most recently the York County Sheriff’s Office. Officer Vachon also served in the United States Army in both active and reserve capacities from 1988 through 1996.

Officer Vachon brings with him a great deal of training, experience and education in the specific areas that we were looking for in order to successfully fill the new position. We are excited to have Officer Vachon back within the ranks of our department. He will be starting on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We purchased a new police ATV for use on the very rural patrols that take place on some of the trails that intersect Berwick. We have partnered with the Maine Warden Service since 2006 frequenting the trails during the spring, summer and fall seasons. The new ATV is a Polaris Razor which is a side by side vehicle. It was purchased through Westcott and Sons in Gorham, Maine. They delivered it on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fire Department – Dennis Plante, Chief**

### **Present Staff Levels:**

28 & 3 juniors

### **Apparatus / Equipment Status:**

MDOL- Requirements

- Annual Apparatus pump testing has been completed with all pumps passing and annual fire hose testing has been completed. Truck 1 Aerial Ladder and all ground ladder testing is scheduled for the first week in October 2016.
- New Fire Apparatus vehicle specifications are still being developed and should be completed soon, at which point, specifications will be sent out for bid quotes.
- 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 are unknown at this time and options are 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.

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

### **Coverage:**

- Effective July 11, 2016 the department started 24 hour shifts M-F. This change in schedule allowed a transition period for our career staff and time to properly train our new hire.
- Effective October 10, 2016, the Department will be staffed with one paid person 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### **Training:**

- Two Firefighters have finished with their basic EMT program and are awaiting National Registry testing opportunities.
- The Department has been recognized over the last 8 years by the Maine Department of Labor (MDOL) for the Department's efforts in our Safety & Health programs. This award recognizes the department for promoting and consistently improving conditions for the safety and health of employees and results in receiving the MDOL Safety & Health Award for Public Employees (SHAPE). It is anticipated that MDOL will be here in October 2016 to again conduct a review of the Departments Safety and Health efforts by the Department staff.
- 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 56 open burning and seasonal camp fire permits for residents.
- One wood stove inspection.

**Calls for Service:**

Staff responded to 71 calls for service involving Fire & EMS August 28, 2016 thru September 25, 2016. 10 calls were missed for EMS services during the weekends. The staffing of 24 hours /

7 days a week, starting October 10, 2016 should address these missed calls in the near future.

**Town Emergency Management Activities:**

Received MSAD 60 copies of updated crises response plans for all 3 Berwick schools. Over a period of time, these plans will be insert into the Town's Emergency Management Plan.

**Station:**

The last remaining task for this year's station upgrade involved closing off the stairway leading to the second floor. That Task has now been completed as of September 2, 2016.



## **Town Clerk's Office – Patricia Murray, Clerk**

### **November 8, 2016 – General Election and Referendum Election**

**Description of the General Election** - The General Election is held nationally on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November. In 2016, Maine voters will select their choice for President/Vice President (this process is called the "popular vote"), and elect Maine's Representatives to Congress, members of the Maine Legislature, and certain county officers.

Each party's nomination for President/Vice President of the United States, party candidates who are nominated as a result of the June Primary Election, and unenrolled candidates will appear on the General Election ballot.

The actual election of President/Vice President occurs through the Electoral College. The "popular vote" is used to choose Maine's 4 "electors", who convene at what is called the "Electoral College" at the State House in December to cast their "electoral votes."

**Ballot questions that will appear on the November 8, 2016 referendum ballot:** (in the order they will appear on the ballot):

#### **Question 1: Citizen Initiative**

[Legislation](#)

Do you want to allow the possession and use of marijuana under state law by persons who are at least 21 years of age, and allow the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products subject to state regulation, taxation and local ordinance?

#### **Question 2: Citizen Initiative**

[Legislation](#)

Do you want to add a 3% tax on individual Maine taxable income above \$200,000 to create a state fund that would provide direct support for student learning in kindergarten through 12th grade public education?

#### **Question 3: Citizen Initiative**

[Legislation](#)

Do you want to require background checks prior to the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals not licensed as firearms dealers, with failure to do so punishable by law, and with some exceptions for family members, hunting, self-defense, lawful competitions, and shooting range activity?

#### **Question 4: Citizen Initiative**

[Legislation](#)

Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of \$7.50 to \$9 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases up to \$12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who receive tips from half the minimum wage to \$5 in 2017, with annual \$1 increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?

#### **Question 5: Citizen Initiative**

[Legislation](#)

Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices of candidates in elections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative, and to have ballots counted at the state level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?

## Question 6: Bond Issue

### Legislation

Do you favor a \$100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds?

2016 Town Referendum Warrant (in the order they will appear on the ballot):

#### ARTICLE 1

Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed Article XV Community Facilities Impact Analysis to the Land Use Ordinance?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

#### ARTICLE 2

Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed amendment to Article 8.6 C2 to the Land Use Ordinance?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 4:1

#### ARTICLE 3

Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed Fireworks Ordinance?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

#### ARTICLE 4

Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed Littering Ordinance?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

#### ARTICLE 5

Shall the Town vote to adopt the proposed amendments to the Bedbug Treatment Ordinance?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

#### ARTICLE 6

Shall the Town vote to designate a municipal tax increment financing (TIF) district pursuant to Title 30-A, Chapter 206 of the Maine Revised Statutes to be known as the Town of Berwick Downtown Municipal Development and Omnibus Tax Increment Financing District ("the District") in accordance with the resolution approved by the Select Board on September 20, 2016 attached hereto, and adopt the Development Program for such District?

NOTE: The proposed Town of Berwick Downtown Municipal Development and Omnibus Tax Increment Financing District (the District) would consist of 33.32 acres located in the area otherwise identified as the Town's Village Overlay zoning district, as depicted in the map of the District. The Development Program for the District proposes to provide financial support to a number of Town economic development projects and programs. The percentage of new taxes to be captured by the Town if the proposed 20-year program is approved is 100% for years 1-20.

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

#### ARTICLE 7

Shall the Town vote to authorize the donation of the Estabrook School and a portion of Map U4, Lot 142 to the Housing Partnership for the construction of an affordable Senior Housing facility as outlined in the attached Option to Purchase Agreement?

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN RECOMMENDS YES VOTE 5:0

## **Office of Community Development and Planning – John Stoll, Director**

### **Prime Tanning Brownfields Project Update:**

Phase I of building demolition at Prime Tanning is now complete. The next part of phase I will involve slab demolition and crushing. Residents of Berwick should expect a significant level of noise while concrete is being crushed onsite. We expect Phase II of building demolition to begin late Fall/Early Winter of 2016 and proceed into 2017.

### **Planning Board:**

The Planning Board is currently reviewing a proposed Elderly Housing facility at the former

Estabrook School – 20 Wilson Street behind the existing Police Station. This project will consist of Major Subdivision, Conditional Use, and Site Plan. There are currently three public hearings scheduled: October 6, 13, and 20.

**Board of Appeals:** A Board of Appeals application requesting an administrative appeal of the Code Enforcement Officer's decision has been received. The tentative date for this hearing will be October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



## **Public Works Department – Robert Perschy, Foreman**

The month of September started with paving Wentworth Road and Pond Road. The Department continued to catch up on ditching problem areas. One of these areas is Sidney Drive where we ditched and added shoulder gravel. Heavy rain washed out the newly ditched areas of Diamond Hill where the grass didn't start growing yet and also on steep grades. We worked to stabilize these areas to keep from eroding even more and breaking the new asphalt.

We completed stripping of crosswalks in the Downtown area one early morning when traffic was minimal.

Due to a strong storm that blew through, causing trees to come down and limbs to come down all over Town, the crew spent several days cleaning up after this.

The crew spent several days mowing Town properties to keep them looking presentable.

Maintenance has started on trucks in preparation for winter.

