

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/ASSESSORS

Town of Berwick

March 26, 2013

MINUTES

**ROLL CALL:** Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman O'Connor and Selectman Ganiere (absent at point of commencement) in attendance.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Town Manager, Patrick Venne; Finance Director, Maureen Finger

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Haley led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Water Department

Chris Weisman, of the Water Department, discussed the Department's proposed budget as presented to the Board. The Board discussed the budget as proposed.

MOTION

Chair Haley moved:

*To approve the Water Department's budget as revised to correctly show \$9,200 for retirement, moving \$500 from longevity to contingency for a total of \$612,396.*

Seconded by Selectman O'Connor.

VOTED: 4-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

ABSENT: Selectman Ganiere

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Administration Budget

Mr. Venne presented the revised Administration budget to the Board, and the Board discussed the matter.

MOTION

Selectman O'Connor moved:

*To approve \$515,996 as the Administration budget, moving \$45,480 from Administration to the Revenue budget.*

Seconded by Selectwoman Murphy.

VOTED: 4-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

ABSENT: Selectman Ganiere

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The Board request Finance Director Maureen Finger to estimate unfunded liabilities to date for consideration at its April 2, 2013 meeting when it scheduled a final vote on the Miscellaneous Expenditures budget.

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Police Department Budget

Berwick Police Chief Timothy Towne presented the Department's budget and the Board considered it. The Board reduced membership from \$2,200 to \$950, getting rid of the statutes, decreased the 'telephone' line item by \$1,000 for a new total of \$16,000, and approved a 2% budget increase for potential wage increases for the Chief and one additional non-Union staff member, for an additional benefit-and-tax adjusted amount of \$16,811, which resulted in a new total request of \$1,365,472.

MOTION

Selectman O'Connor moved:

*To accept the Department's budget of \$1,365,472.*

Seconded by Selectman Crichton.

VOTED: 4-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

ABSENT: Selectman Ganiere

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Public Works Budget

Public Works Foreman Robert Perschy presented the Department's budget to the Board, which discussed it. Mr. Perschy indicated he would discuss quotes for a loader proposed for maintenance at the Board's next meeting, on April 2, 2013, when a final Public Works Department budget vote was scheduled. The Board trimmed the travel line item to \$1,500, the telephone line item to \$1,100, and the postage line item

to \$100 for a total decrease of \$1,700 pending any further potential adjustment after the loader quotes are discussed.

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The Board advised Frank Underwood should be contacted to see if he has any recollection of reviewing John St. Pierre's work as an engineer for Diamond Hill Road which would enable the Town to commence a project concerning that road.

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Refuse

Mr. Perschy presented the Refuse Department's budget and the Board discussed it.

MOTION

Selectman Crichton moved:

*To accept the Department's budget of \$473,811 as proposed.*

Seconded by Selectwoman Murphy.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

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General Expense Budget

The Board added \$10,000 to the 'Legal' line item

MOTION

Selectman O'Connor moved:

*To present \$214,328 as the General Expense Budget.*

Seconded by Chair Haley.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

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Appropriations Budget

The Board made the COAST line item \$8,500; Visiting Nurses \$7,000; Southern Maine Agency on Aging \$2,200; and Caring Unlimited \$2,000 which resulted in a new total request of \$59,567.

MOTION

Selectman Ganiere moved:

*To accept the Appropriations budget of \$59,567.*

Seconded by Selectwoman Murphy.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

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General Assistance Budgets

MOTION

Selectwoman Murphy moved:

*To accept \$35,000 as the General Assistance budget.*

Seconded by Selectman Ganiere.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

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Miscellaneous Expenditures Budget

MOTION

Chair Haley moved:

*To unassign \$6,468.43 from Tax Assistance to keep in the Fund Balance..*

Seconded by Selectman O'Connor.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere,  
Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

The Board requested a warrant article to clearly articulate this.

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The Board requested an updated amount of unfunded liability as shown in a year-to-date manner from the Finance Director to be presented at its April 2, 2013 meeting.

The Board indicated it would hold a final vote on the Miscellaneous Expenditures budget when it has these revised figures.

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Transfers Budget

The Board added \$10,000 to the Contingency line item for a new total of \$30,000 in that line item.

The Board discussed adding a 'place-holder' of \$100,000 to Trans/CI as a line item, but ultimately decided to request the capital needs of each department to accurately address the capital improvement portion of this budget at its next meeting on April 2, 2013.

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Adjournment

MOTION

Selectman Crichton moved:

*To adjourn.*

Seconded by Selectman Ganiere.

VOTED: 5-0 IN FAVOR

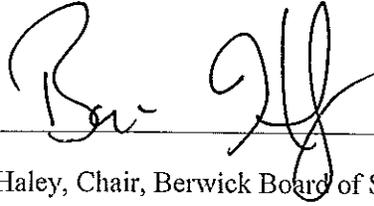
IN FAVOR: Chairman Haley, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Crichton, Selectman Ganiere,  
Selectman O'Connor

OPPOSED: none

ABSTAINED: none

Signed as approved by vote at the Board's April \_\_ 2013 meeting

On behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Haley", written over a horizontal line.

Bart Haley, Chair, Berwick Board of Selectmen

