

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2014**

I. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Chairman O'Connor, Selectman Crichton, Selectwoman Murphy, Selectman Ganiere, Selectman Haley

OTHERS PRESENT: Town Manager Patrick Venne, Town Clerk Jo Anne Lepley, Finance Director Maureen Finger, Highway Supervisor Robert Perschy

II. APPROVAL & SIGNATURE OF MINUTES

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Ganiere and seconded by Selectman Crichton to approve the February 25, 2014 minutes as submitted.

The motion and second were withdrawn.

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Ganiere and seconded by Selectman Crichton to approve the February 25, 2014 minutes as amended.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

III. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. BCTV Committee Update - None

b. Downtown Vision Committee (DVC)

Frank Underwood – Mr. Underwood presented the DVC update.

1. The DVC report was finished and ready for adoption by the Town at Town Meeting and would like it placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. If there is not enough time, then the June General Election.

2. The Tables in the report are Comprehensive Plan Supplements

3. Mr. Underwood updated the BOS regarding the meeting with Mark Kehaya from his perspective.

4. The DVC has tentatively scheduled a meeting(s) with Representative Plante and House Speaker Eves on either March 14, 2014 with both, or March 15, 2014 with Representative Plante to see how the State can help the Town be proactive with the Prime Tanning site.

c. Friends of the Riverfront Update

Mr. Underwood stated that the Friends of the Riverfront Committee had received a lot of information regarding the proposed river access and needs to research the material before coming back to the BOS.

Communications – b. Meeting with Mark Kehaya RE: Status & Future of Prime Tanning Site

The Town Manager went over his notes of the meeting with the BOS. He stated that although it was a lengthy and informative meeting, there was no development proposal. Some of the buildings on the site will need to be torn down, but others will hopefully be salvaged and repurposed. Mr. Kehaya would like to see natural gas available and discussed the "Pine Tree Zone" designation.

Mr. Underwood stated that Mr. Kehaya and Fund of Jupiter appeared to be at the point of getting their "team" together to move forward with their plans for the site.

Mr. Underwood inquired about the possible Warrant Article addressing the proposed "Berwick Tomorrow, LLC" and the request for \$100,000 in funding and the role of the proposed group.

Chairman O'Connor stated that he had attended the meeting and that he felt the meeting had been very positive.

Selectman Haley asked Mr. Underwood if he knew of any similar instances of using a group like the proposed "Berwick Tomorrow".

The Towns of New Market, NH, and Biddeford/Saco had used or are using similar groups.

Selectman Haley also stated that there had been some Town residents who had asked whether the DCV or the Selectmen were in charge. Mr. Underwood stated that the Town was in charge as the Legislative Body.

Chairman O'Connor and Selectman Haley both stated that the average person needed more education on the benefits of this moving forward.

a. BCTV

Terri Wright – Ms. Wright explained that she was training someone and had not been available earlier.

1. Ms. Wright wished to thank Derek Gould for all of his time and work on behalf of BCTV. (Mr. Gould recently resigned from the BCTV Board).

2. Ms. Wright stated that she had also resigned her position on the BCTV Board in order to apply for the Coordinator Position. BCTV has also posted a "Night Position". The new position would be mostly for coverage of BOS and Planning Board meetings.

3. Lisa Huestis had stepped in as chair of BCTV Board. Currently there are two Board members, Lisa Huestis and Vicki Stone. Brian Cincotta has expressed interest.

4. The Coordinator Position will be posted through the 14th.

Selectman Haley asked if the budget proposal presented at a previous meeting had been completely vetted and voted on. The Town Manager will go back and look at the minutes.

d. Rec Committee Update

Kim Taylor – Ms. Taylor updated the BOS on:

1. Harris Farm field trip; 24 kids

2. The second indoor Farmer's Market was held on February 16th and the third will be held on March 16th. There are no future markets planned at this time.

3. There are discount ski tickets available for Attitash/Wildcat Mountain.

Selectman Crichton asked if there had been a survey done of the vendors at the Farmer's Market. Ms. Taylor stated that there had not been an official survey done of the vendors.

IV. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT – None

V. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/OTHER GUESTS

a. Elizabeth Lowell RE: American Cancer Society Toll Road Fundraiser Request

Ms. Lowell went over the proposal that the BOS had denied at their last meeting and asked if the BOS had an alternative. Chairman O'Connor stated that the BOS had voted against the proposal and that they would entertain a different proposal if submitted.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Department Updates – None

b. Meeting with Mark Kehaya RE: Status & Future of Prime Tanning Site – This Item was discussed earlier under Reports of Committees

c. Union Update

The Town Manager stated that the Dave Barrett and the Union Representative feel that the sides are not too far apart and should continue with the negotiations with going to arbitration.

Selectman Haley asked about discussing the Union negotiations publically vs in Executive Session and what the limits were for public discussion. Selectman Haley stated that publically the BOS has let their position be known on:

1. Reducing sick pay accrual
2. Potentially eliminate longevity
3. Reduce benefits due to the need of recruiting public vs private employees

d. Town Hall HVAC Update

The Town Manager stated that AEC's Tim Nichols would be at the March 18, 2014 meeting to answer questions.

e. Prevention of Warrant Article Pertaining to Off-Premises Liquor Consumption Sales

The Town Manager explained that due to State Law, the BOS could not put this on the Town Meeting Warrant and that it could only be put on the Warrant by voter petition.

Selectman Haley inquired as to whether the "other" store in Town had someone explain that there are no off-premise Sunday sales of alcohol in Berwick. The Town Manager stated that he would get with the Police Chief on this matter.

VII. APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE WARRANTS

W	1435	\$41,894.77
PR	1436	\$35,682.34
WW	1435	\$45,820.98

Motion: It was moved by Selectwoman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Crichton to approve the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

VIII. QUITCLAIM DEEDS AND/OR INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS

Motion: It was moved by Chairman O'Connor and seconded by Selectman Crichton to sign the Quitclaim Deed With-Out Covenants for R035-019-000-000.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

Motion: It was moved by Chairman O'Connor and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to sign the Quitclaim Deed With-Out Covenants for R035-019-004-000

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

Motion: It was moved by Chairman O'Connor and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to sign the Quitclaim Deed With-Out Covenants for R055-003-000-000

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –

a. Board to Clarify Approval of Administration Budget

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Haley and seconded by the Administration Budget bottom-line to \$307,872 to accommodate FICA, etc.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. Municipal Road Postings

Selectman Haley asked if this list of roads was the same every year and whether there were exceptions for individuals. Mr. Perschy stated that it was the same list every year

and he must give approval to anyone on a daily case by case situation due to the temperature changes.

Motion; It was moved by Selectman Crichton and seconded by Selectman Haley to accept the Municipal Road Postings as presented.

The motion carried unanimously: 5 – 0.

XI. BUDGET HEARINGS

The Budget Hearing began at 8:06 p.m.

a. Appropriations

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Haley and seconded by Selectwoman Murphy to accept the Budget Committees recommendation of \$22,999 for Appropriations.

Selectwoman Murphy stated that she felt the Town was too generous with the appropriation requests.

Chairman O'Connor stated that all of the organizations provide, good, quality services to Berwick residents, but their funding should come from individuals. He stated that there should be no funding from the Town or at least a cut in funding.

Selectman Haley asked the Town Manager if there had been letters from the requesting agencies. The Town Manager stated that there had been, he had summarized the requests for the Budget Packets.

Ms. Finger stated that there had been a request for \$2,500 from Home Health Nurses to cover uncompensated care, and a non-specified amount requested from the Center for Wildlife; both had come in after the budget had been done.

Chairman O'Connor asked Ms. Finger if other Town's she had worked for continued to fund these types of requests. Ms. Finger stated that they had stopped several years ago.

Motion: Selectman Haley moved to amend his motion to include the \$2,598 request from Home Health Nurses. Selectwoman Murphy would not withdraw her second.

The motion did not carry on a 0 – 5 vote.

Motion: It was moved by Haley to approve the Budget Committee's recommendation of \$22,999 plus the \$2,598 requested by Home Health Nurses.

The motion died without second.

Motion: It was moved by Selectwoman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to approve the amount of the Town Manager's request for Coast Bus Service, American Legion Post 79, Memorial Day Parade, Christmas Decorations and Seacoast Shipyard Association.

Selectman Crichton stated that Coast Bus Service could be cut.

Motion: It was moved by Selectwoman Murphy and seconded by Selectman Ganiere to amend the motion to include \$8,500 for Coast Bus Services for a total Appropriations amount of \$12,275.

Selectman Haley questioned the amount given to Legion Post 79 for the Bi-annual Citizen of the Year Dinner if it would not be open to the public.

The motion carried on a vote of 3 – 2 (Crichton, Haley)

The Town Manager was instructed to write letters to the non-funded entities that had been funded in the past and explain that the BOS was moving in a different direction.

b. Public Works

The Town Manager explained that the increase in the Public Works Budget was based on a historical justification and the fact that the Union wages were inflated intentionally due to the ongoing negotiations.

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Ganiere and seconded by Selectwoman Murphy to accept the proposed Public Works Budget as requested by the Town Manager and recommended by the Budget Committee for the amount of \$649,510.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

There was discussion regarding the amount of salt on hand and how with the growth of the Town, interdepartmental or agency use of time and equipment and how it was accounted for in budgets.

c. Recreation

There was some discussion on the payment to the Public Works for some services. Using the new Gross Budgeting system, the Recreation Department appears to have a large increase, but there is an actual decrease.

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Ganiere and seconded by Selectwoman Murphy to accept the proposed Recreation Budget as requested by the Town Manager and recommended by the Budget Committee for \$103,225.

The motion carried unanimously; 5 – 0.

II. ABATEMENT/SUPPLIMENTALS - None

XIII. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Selectwoman Murphy stated that the BOS had received a thank you from the Guptill Family for the plaque.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman O'Connor stated that he could not attend the non-regular meeting scheduled for March 11, 2014 due to his work schedule. A reschedule date was set for March 13, 2014.

Selectman Haley asked Mr. Perschy if the State cannot keep up with the hills on Hwy 236 during a storm, what his department's protocol is if people are going off the road. Mr. Perschy stated that if the Berwick Police Department contacts him, he will send a truck over.

XV. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSIONS – 1 M.R.S. Section 405(6)(D)

Motion: It was moved by Selectman Haley and seconded by Selectwoman Murphy to enter into executive session per 1 M.R.S. Section 405 (6)(D).

The motion carried unanimously 5 – 0.

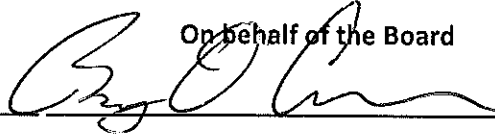
The BOS entered into executive session at 9:42 p.m.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at p.m.

The March 4, 2014 BOS Meeting Minutes
Signed as approved at the Board's March 13, 2014 Meeting

On behalf of the Board



Bryan O'Connor, Chairman, Berwick Board of Selectmen