



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF ASSESSOR
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2016
6:30pm

Call to Order

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Chair Thomas Wright, Selectman Edward Ganiere, Selectman Mark Pendergast and Selectman Joshua Plante (6:35).

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Stephen Eldridge, and Town Clerk Patricia Murray.

II. MINUTES

a. Minutes from BOS regular meeting May 5, 2016

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to accept the minutes as written. Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3-0

III. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

None

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Reading of the 2016-2017 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Chair Wright read the finalized Town Warrant.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, spoke. She asked why Article 30 (Shall the Town vote to authorize the Town Manager, with Board of Selectmen approval, to balance the budget if necessary by transferring unencumbered appropriations from one account to another within the budget?) was on the secret ballot and not the open meeting since in 1987 the vote was to put any article over \$25,000.00 under secret ballot and all others to Open Meeting.

Town Manager Eldridge stated he followed the same format as last year. Ms. Murphy stated that the year before last year the same article was voted down at open meeting. She stated that if any budget goes over then it should return to the townspeople to vote on where to take the money from.

V. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

a. BCTV Committee

None

b. Envision Berwick Committee (EBC)

Dennis Dupuis, co-chair Berwick Riverfront Committee, spoke. This past Saturday the work detail was out and completed Phase 2 dock installation and wheelchair threshold. Pictures will be posted on Facebook. He stated the donations have been great. Phase 3 will be stated and includes the Conservation Building and updates to Phase 2 with landscaping and flowers. The Committee is working on having a kayak day with kayaks, vests and paddles available for people without equipment. Mr. Dupuis stated donations are still be accepted and should be made out to the Town of Berwick referencing Berwick Riverfront. Chair Wright extended thanks and appreciation for all the work the Committee has done. Mr. Dupuis noted this is the first ADA launch in the State of Maine. There was an article in Fosters today about the launch.

James Bellissimo reported that EBC terms are expiring and they are looking to stagger terms for one and two years. The Town of Berwick is now one of thirteen communities that are AARP age-friendly community. An age-friendly Berwick Committee will be formed and will meet the fourth Thursday of every month at 4:45 pm. The first meeting will cover the grant application. The goal of the Committee is to produce an action plan of the eight domains of livability; outdoor spaces, buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information and community and health services. They will send out a survey to residents to see where strengths and weaknesses are. The long range goals of the Committee is to complete the objectives outlined in the action report. If interested please attend a meeting or email envisionberwick@gmail.com.

Mr. Bellissimo also stated they are in the beginning stages of writing a series of grants. This will be a one to three year process. He stated there is a historical program scheduled tomorrow which will highlight Prime Tanning in its heyday.

Mr. Bellissimo noted that a purchase agreement from EverSource was received on the PSNH parcel which is Article 41 on the Warrant. This piece of land, which is across from the Sawmill Hill Church, is an integral part of the trailhead. The Keay Brook Reserve on Hubbard Road was dedicated to Michael and Michelle Wright and is available for viewing on the BCTV page of the Town's website.

c. American Legion/Memorial Day

Mr. Andy Buckman and Ms. Rosanne Martin, American Legion, were present. Mr. Buckman thanked the Town for working with the short notice for the job fair. The Committee, the Town Manager and the Town Clerk gave full cooperation. 60 – 65 people went through the job fair and 22 people were offered jobs as a result. The Library staff helped with resumes and Veterans Affairs were also in attendance. The Legion is hoping to host another job fair next year. Ms. Martin announced that the Memorial Day Parade will take place in Berwick on Monday, May 30th at 11am. The parade will convene in the square. Ms. Martin extended an invitation to the Board and Town Manager to participate in the parade. These participants would be able to ride in vehicles provided by the North Berwick Auto Center. The parade route will be changed slightly this year; the parade will form at Sullivan Square, proceed up Sullivan Street, right on Wilson Street to Allen Street to the cemetery. The change is due to people participating in both Berwick and North Berwick parades, including the Noble High School and Middle School bands, to eliminate some of the required walking. Advertising will be going out in advance.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy commented that the parade used to include Rochester Street. Mr. Buckman replied that the route makes it easier for people to get through town and with Rochester Street open there is a thru-way without interfering with the parade.

VI. APPOINTMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/OTHER GUESTS

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Pay as You Throw Program/Recycling Committee

Town Manger Eldridge is collecting data and talking to people about recycling and taking some of our waste. He will sit with the Recycling Committee for input. He has also talked to South Berwick about forming a partnership for waste management and transfer stations.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

Town Manger Eldridge noted the triple feature that Mr. Bellissimo spoke of.

Chair Wright read a note from Mr. Ed Badeau to the Berwick Fire and Rescue department thanking them for their assistance and rescue from an automobile accident.

IX. APPROVAL OF WARRANTS

05/05/2016	A/P Warrant #1645	\$674,409.63
05/05/2016	Water Warrant #0645	\$ 2,881.85
05/12/2016	Payroll Warrant 1646	\$ 42,470.79
05/12/2016	A/P Warrant 1646	\$ 57,438.55
05/12/2016	Water Warrant #0646	\$ 575.50
05/12/2016	Payroll Warrant #1647	\$ 46,506.43

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to accept the Accounts Payable Warrants as presented. Selectman Plante seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

Selectman Pendergast asked Town Manger Eldridge what is done with projected year balance and any monies remaining. Mr. Eldridge replied that some leftover funds would be carried forward such as money for roads. Any unexpended funds rolls back into the general fund.

X. NEW BUSINESS

a. Acceptance of Union Contracts – MAP and Teamsters

Tabled.

b. Bid Openings

• Paving Bids

Chair Wright opened the paving bids.

1. Boulanger Paving \$662,033.00
2. Pike Industries \$494,892.20
3. F. Carroll Inc. declined to bid

Town Manger Eldridge will bring the bids to Robert Perschey, Highway Foreman, for his recommendations. This item will come back to the Board in June for final award.

• Prime Demolition Bids

Town Manager Eldridge reported that on Friday, three demolition bids were opened. He stated all are fairly high. The engineers are comparing the bids and should have information and a recommendation for award at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

c. Municipal 2016-17 Ratio Declaration

Town Manager Eldridge explained that each year the Town Assessor prepares a recommendation for the valuation ratio. He is recommending 105% for 2016-2017.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept the 2016-17 Municipal Ratio Declaration as submitted by the Town Assessor at 105%. Selectman Plante seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

XI. QUITCLAIM DEEDS AND/OR INSTALLMENT CONTRACTS

- a. Map R072-009-00A-000: Quitclaim deed for property owner who completed payment on a Land Purchase Installment Agreement with the Board**

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept the quitclaim deed for Map R072-009-00A-000.

Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

- b. Map R060-001-00C-1MH: Quitclaim deed for property owner who paid the 2014, 2015, & 2016 taxes in order to get tax acquired property back**

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept the quitclaim deed for Map R060-001-00C-1MH.

Selectman Plante seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

- c. Map R017-022-000-000: Quitclaim deed for approved tax acquired property bid from 5/3/2016 meeting**

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept the quitclaim deed for Map R017-022-000-000. Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

XII. ABATEMENTS/SUPPLEMENTS

- a. Supplemental Tax Assessment from Assessing Agent, Mike Pelletier**

The tax assessment is for a farm penalty in the amount of \$4801.00 to remove a building lot of 3.99 acres out of the farm program.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept the Supplemental Tax Assessment as presented. Selectman Plante seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

XIII. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ken Raine, Sidney Drive, spoke. He asked when the new town signs would go up. He noticed the sign that is up says “welcome to Berwick. Home of Prime Tanning”. Selectman Pendergast stated he has the posts ready to go. He also stated Mr. Dave Andreesen would let him know when the sign was ready. Chair Wright stated he would try to get the information.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

XV. OTHER BUSINESS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Noble High School Memorial Scholarship**

The nominations need to be in by May 20. The Board will get them to the Town Clerk.

- b. Town Hall closing May 26 from 8:30 – 10:30 for Safety Awareness Training**

Town Manager Eldridge stated the Police Department will be working with Town Hall employees regarding emergency situations including robberies, disgruntled customers, etc.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murray

Town Clerk

The May 17, 2016 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s June 7, 2016 Meeting.

On behalf of the Board
