



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF ASSESSOR

Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2016

6:30pm

Call to Order

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

I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: Chair Thomas Wright, Vice Chair Robert Crichton, Selectman Edward Ganiere, Selectman Mark Pendergast and Selectman Joshua Plante.

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

Guests: Diane Doyle; WasteZero.

II. Approval of Minutes from December 15, 2015

Motion: Selectman Crichton moved to accept the minutes as written and Selectman Plante seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

III. First Public Comment

Ms. Eleanor Murphy spoke. She stated the January 5, 2016 BOS agenda was not available on-line.

Selectman Pendergast stated he had a tour of the Dover Police Station and reported that it was impressive. He suggested Berwick and South Berwick combining the Police Departments. Chair Wright expressed agreement and noted Town Manager Eldridge had been talking with South Berwick. Mr. Eldridge stated he had been discussing combining dispatch with Eliot, Kittery and South Berwick. Mr. Eldridge will research talk about a combined police department on Route 4. Selectman Ganiere stated this was a good idea and he would like Mr. Eldridge to keep the lines of communication open.

Chair Wright stated a Democratic caucus is scheduled for Sunday, March 6, 2016 from 1 – 4 in town hall.

IV. Public Hearing - None

V. Reports of Committees

a. BCTV –

Select Board Chair Wright reported that BCTV has new business hours two days per week. The schedule is posted on the town's website.

b. Envision Berwick Committee (EBC) –

Frank Underwood reported that the Christmas lights are still on. Mr. Eldridge stated they would be turned off on Friday.

Mr. Underwood also stated Mark Colman has coordinated with Mr. Eldridge to go to the Estabrook School tomorrow for the environmental assessment. This will give a cost for the environmental work.

Mr. Underwood updated the Board on the scheduling of a meeting with the Funds of Jupiter. Possible meeting dates are January 26 or 27, 2016. Mr. Eldridge will confirm the date.

Mr. Underwood stated EBC is getting guidance from Town Planner, John Stoll. The first monthly business meeting will be held on January 14, 2016. They will review the budget expenditures to date, balances, residuals available for carry over, and any new monies to supplement the budget for FY 17.

Selectman Pendergast asked if Beth O'Conner has been helpful. Mr. Underwood replied that she has been helpful. He has had conversations with her. He stated she sits on the Energy Committee and will be quite useful in the future. Selectman Pendergast wants to see results. Mr. Underwood stated the meeting with the Funds of Jupiter is a critical piece to moving ahead. Discussion regarding a TIF district ensued.

Pat Boisvert, EBC, proposed a skating rink at the Prime Tanning parking lot or at the Estabrook School basketball courts or soccer fields. She stated there are donors willing to put money towards the rink. Having a skating rink was a suggestion from the town survey. Selectman Ganiere stated it is a great idea for social and family interaction. He referenced the Portsmouth and Kennebunk rinks. Ms. Boisvert stated she would like to get something in place and see how it goes this year and get input for next year. Selectman Pendergast suggested Mr. Eldridge speak to South Berwick about rink equipment (boards, etc.) they may have and could possibly lend. Ms. Boisvert stated the expense would be around \$1,000.00. Mr. Eldridge stated the rink would be covered under recreation for insurance. Chair Wright asked Ms. Boisvert to find out more information and filter through Mr. Eldridge who will keep the Board apprised. Ms. Boisvert also stated she is looking for volunteers to help with the rink. Any interested party can contact EBC.

Dave Andreesen and James Bellissimo were present to update the Board on the Town Slogan contest. They received approximately 35 entries. EBC narrowed it down to 6 entries at their November 13, 2015 meeting. The final six entries were voted on by townspeople. EBC received 181 total responses and the winner by 9 votes is Rachel Pozzetti with the slogan "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow". EBC voted at their December meeting to accept the slogan and is asking the BOS to adopt the slogan. Mr. Andreesen stated this will act as the town's branding. The slogan will be produced on welcome signs crossing the bridge into town. The sign will read "Welcome to Berwick, Settled 1631, Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow".

Motion: Selectman Plante made a motion to accept the slogan "Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow" as presented, Selectman Pendergast seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 5 – 0.

Mr. Andreesen thanked James Bellissimo who is a webmaster for the Town's website for his work with the slogan contest. The Board discussed presenting Rachel Pozzetti with a certificate. Mr. Andreesen stated they are envisioning a ceremony with BCTV and Foster's present.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to recognize Rachel Pozzetti with a certificate or similar distinction for her contribution to the adopted Town slogan. Selectman Pendergast seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 5 – 0.

Mr. Underwood stated that the fundraiser has already started for the skating rink and asked who they should approach to establish a line item. Mr. Eldridge asked him to contact himself or Maureen Finger.

VI. Appointment / Presentation / Other Guests

Chair Wright stated there were four appointments for Patricia Murray – Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Excise Tax Collector and General Assistance Administrator.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere made a motion to accept Patricia Murray as Town Clerk, Registrar of Voters, Excise Tax Collector and General Assistance Administrator. Selectman Plante seconded the motion. **The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.**

VII. Unfinished Business

a. James Bellissimo; Town Slogan Contest Results

See summary under Envision Berwick Committee above.

b. Diane Doyle; WasteZero

Diane Doyle, Director of Community Development, was present. Ms. Doyle summarized the proposed bag program. WasteZero is a pay as you throw company. She stated when people become responsible for their garbage, waste is reduced. In the 800 towns WasteZero serves, the average reduction in waste for a town is 44%. In the State of Maine, 1/3 of towns/cities are in a pay as you throw program and WasteZero services 2/3 of those. WasteZero manufactures and distributes the pay as you throw bags. For Berwick, Ms. Doyle suggests two bag sizes; 15 and 30 gallon. The Town would design the bag with a logo and information. The Town would also set the price of the bags. Typically the 30 gallon bags cost between \$2 and \$3 per bag and the 15 gallon is between \$1 and \$2 per bag. The Town decides where the bags will be sold and WasteZero works directly with the merchants regarding delivery, inventory and billing. WasteZero takes their fee out of the bag price; approximately \$0.30 for the 30 gallon bag and \$0.20 for the 15 gallon bag. The remaining money goes back to the town. If trash is reduced in Berwick by 44% it is equal to a \$92,000 reduction in tipping fees plus the bag revenue. Ms. Doyle stated the key to pay to throw is educating people on what it is. People believe that throwing trash away is free when the cost is actually included in tax rates. Pay to throw programs changes behavior in people by increasing their willingness to recycle. Ms. Doyle used examples of Goodwill donations and composting. Ms. Doyle spoke with the Transfer Station employees with Mr. Eldridge and they concurred that a pay as you throw program would be good in Berwick. Ms. Doyle scheduled an educational meeting at Town Hall on February 2, 2016. She distributed a handout which highlights the program and the proposed meeting. She stated the BOS will need to decide on the charge per bag. She stated several surrounding towns; North Berwick, South Berwick, Eliot, are using pay as you throw programs successfully. She stated at inception of the pay as you throw program, along with the annual disposal savings of \$92,000.00, Berwick would also divert 1300 tons of waste from the landfill. The purchasing of bags allows people to only pay for what they throw away. Ms. Doyle explained that people would still bring their trash to the transfer station but trash would have to be in a pay as you throw bag in order to dispose of it at the transfer station. She used a metered utility as an analogy to compare the bag program; you pay for what you use and the bag program is a way to meter trash. Ms. Doyle stated Berwick has approximately 3000 tons of trash per year and if that is reduced by 44% or to 1639 tons of trash per year, using the 30 gallon bag which holds 22 pounds of trash, Berwick would see a revenue in bag sales of \$272,000.00 per year. Discussion ensued regarding savings in tipping fees, waste management, and private curbside trash collection. Selectman Ganiere stated the program is a long time coming but anticipates some resistance. Selectman Wright asked Ms. Doyle to provide a list of surrounding town's bag fees. Chair Wright reiterated the need for education. Mr. Eldridge and Chair Wright asked Ms. Doyle to plan to hold the meeting on February 2, 2016 and she and Mr. Eldridge can discuss fees.

VIII. Communications

Town Manager Eldridge expressed thanks to the Public Works Department for their work removing ice and snow from the recent storm. He noted there were many inquiries about the plowing of Route 236; he wanted people to know Route 236 is a state road and is DOT's responsibility.

Mr. Eldridge also stated he would be presenting the budget/budget process at the next BOS meeting; January 19th. He is working with Department heads to schedule appearances before the BOS and Budget Committee. Departments will meet with the Budget Committee and then, the following week, with the BOS at their regular meeting.

IX. Approval of Warrants

12/17/2015	A/P Warrant #1625	\$111,136.26
12/17/2015	Water Warrant #0625	3,461.82
12/23/2015	Payroll Warrant #1626	43,601.45
12/23/2015	A/P Warrant #1626	36,969.65
12/23/2015	A/P Warrant #0626	3,895.40
12/31/2015	Payroll Warrant # 1627	42,700.15
12/31/2015	A/P Warrant # 1627	289,197.97
12/31/2015	Water Warrant #0627	3,178.08
07/07/2016	Payroll Warrant #1628	50,544.65

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to accept the Payable Warrants as presented, Selectman Plante seconded. **The motion carried unanimously: 5 – 0.**

X. New Business

Vice Chair Crichton stated that budget meetings, which are scheduled soon, tend to be lengthy and asked that a summary from each division be provided prior to getting the packets. He would like a chance to review them before the scheduled meetings. Mr. Eldridge stated that typically an email is sent to different departments to request information for the BOS meeting packets a week or so before the scheduled meeting so that information is available in the packets prior to the meeting. He also stated the budget will come out next week which will give the Board a week to review.

XI. Quit Claim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts

Chair Wright reported that the BOS needs to sign the Quitclaim Deed for Map R060/Lot 013.

XII. Abatements / Supplemental - None

XIII. Second Public Comment

Ms. Eleanor Murphy spoke. She stated the taxpayers will be paying for the bags. She stated in South Berwick, the bags are available at town hall and they cannot charge one cent more than what they pay for them. The store owners have to absorb any costs associated with the sales of bags such as customer service time. She questioned whether the company would distribute the bags at no extra cost. She stated she has been a proponent of recycling since 1979 and if it was mandated at that time the current tonnage of trash would be eradicated. Ms. Murphy believes in recycling. Ms. Murphy related the cost of the bag program to the cost of having children in school; she believes costs should be shared equally by the town as a whole and an individual shouldn't be expected to pay more for bags because their family is larger. She stated we should help each other and a cost is a cost whether it's a tax or a fee. She asked the BOS to look at the program closely and that she believes it's only going to give them money to spend.

XIV. Executive Session - None

XV. Other Business/Non-Agenda items - None

XVI. The Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Murray
Town Clerk**

The January 5, 2016 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s January 19, 2016 Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

Chair Thomas Wright