



BOARD OF SELECTMEN / BOARD OF ASSESSOR

Meeting Minutes

February 2, 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 (6:37).

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Stephen Eldridge, Finance Director Maureen Finger, Supervisor of the Transfer Station Neil Hokinson and Town Clerk Patricia Murray.

Guests: Diane Doyle, WasteZero

II. Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2016

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to accept the minutes as written and Vice Chair Crichton seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 4-0.

III. First Public Comment

Mr. Mark Carboni spoke. He presented the BOS with the complaint he brought against the Berwick Police Department. Mr. Carboni feels he was mistreated and falsely charged by the Police Department. He distributed a supplementary complaint to go with the original complain.

IV. Public Hearing

a. WasteZero

Chair Wright announced that unequivocally there have been no plans to implement any pay as you throw program; this is a fact-finding mission and all options will be looked at. No agreements or contracts have been signed. Before any decision is finalized, it would go before a town wide vote.

Diane Doyle, Director of Community Development, WasteZero, was present. Ms. Doyle introduced her company, WasteZero which is the leading provider for municipal solid waste reduction services. The company meters trash by using the pay as you throw trash bag program. The bags are manufactured in South Carolina out of a percentage of recycled materials. WasteZero is currently in 42 Maine communities and 800 communities nationwide. WasteZero is a B corporation or a for-profit company certified as doing something good for the environment. Ms. Doyle stressed the importance of recycling. The best way to reduce trash is to make people responsible for what they throw away. There is not a lot of incentive in Berwick to recycle. Berwick has an 11% recycle rate which is below the average of 30% in Maine. She stated trash disposal is free in Berwick. The Pay as You Throw Program is a trash meter. She related using the PAYT Program to paying a utility bill; the burden of recycling will be spread out equally and people will pay for what they throw away and reduce costs by recycling just as people will turn off lights to reduce electric bills. Ms. Doyle presented slides with information showing the reduction of trash in Sanford, Waterville, and Eliot after initiating the PAYT Program. With a PAYT Program in place, the average reduction in waste for a town is 44%. She stated with this reduction Berwick would reduce its 270,028 tons of yearly trash by 1200 tons which will result in a savings of tipping and

hauling fees. The average savings will equal \$69,400.00 per year which includes the cost for the increase in recycling. Ms. Doyle went over the preliminary annual financial impact for the PAYT Program; revenue from the sale of the bags is \$253,000 plus the savings of \$69,400 equals a \$322,400 net program impact. 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.

Selectman Pendergast asked if there were administrative fees. Ms. Doyle replied that there are no administrative fees. WasteZero takes a portion of the bag fee as previously discussed. She confirmed that the price is negotiable. Selectman Pendergast asked how the town would monitor the bag sales. Ms. Doyle replied the town would receive a monthly report. He also asked if she would have data after 6 months to show how the program is working. Ms. Doyle confirmed.

Selectman Pendergast noted that Waterville has the PAYT program and town trash pickup. Ms. Doyle stated Waterville now offers full curbside services using the money generated from the PAYT program. Selectman Pendergast asked what would happen with private haulers. Ms. Doyle replied that private haulers would pick up the PAYT bags to bring to the transfer station or regular trash bags if brought to a waste management. Chair Wright stated that is something the Town would discuss if the program is adopted.

Mr. David Salois, 3 Old Homestead Lane, spoke. He asked Ms. Doyle where the figure of 11% recycling came from. Ms. Doyle stated the figures came from the Finance Director. Mr. Salois stated the figure doesn't include what the Fire Department collects in aluminum cans which is another tonnage. Mr. Salois asked how much the town pays in all. Town Manager Eldridge replied that it costs \$448,000 to run the transfer station yearly. Mr. Salois asked if that fee would go down. Chair Wright responded that the cost of tipping and hauling would go down if the trash reduced. Mr. Salois stated he is not getting any break on his taxes on this deal. He stated he already pays to have certain household items trashed. Mr. Salois stated that is already a pay as you throw program. Selectman Pendergast stated the BOS will listen to what the town wants. Ms. Salois stated the town needs to be educated. Chair Wright suggested a recycling committee but noted it is hard to get volunteers. Mr. Salois stated if a fee is charged for bags then he expects property taxes to go down.

Discussion ensued about returning the savings to the taxpayers through a rebate.

Mr. Dennis Dupree spoke. He conducted a study. He found that it may cost a family of four \$208 a year for bags. He also spoke about recycling. He calculated that he would pay an additional \$365 a year to bag things he cannot recycle.

Mr. Fred Lewis, Berwick Road, spoke. He said the presentation appeared disingenuous. He stated he constantly picks up trash that has fallen off trucks/trailers going to the transfer station. He may not continue this if he has to pay for bags. He stated he is for recycling but it has a lot of drawbacks too.

Ms. Beth O'Connor, Sullivan Street, spoke. She has concerns about increased burns. She stated Waterville Fire Department saw increased burns after initiating the PAYT Program. She also stated she has concerns regarding illegal dumping into private dumpsters. She also stated she would be happy to volunteer for the recycling committee. She also spoke about a "walk of shame" using clear bags. She concluded by saying that this is another tax and she would rather see a voluntary program.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, spoke. She stated the transfer station is not that big; there is no room for composting or for every Berwick citizen to take trash there. She believes that recycling should be mandated as proposed by the recycling committee long ago. She believes this program is a money stream for the Select Board to spend.

Ms. Maria Seraphim spoke. She has concerns for single income families, elderly, etc. and feels a voucher should be available for those in need. Chair Wright replied that there are many options that could be considered such as allotting a free bag per household per week.

Mr. Bart Haley, Long Meadow Drive, spoke. He asked if the bags are going to be clear and if they would be inspected prior to throwing away. Ms. Doyle stated the bags are normally colored with the town logo. Mr. Haley clarified that contents of the bag would not be inspected and prohibited from throwing away at the transfer station. Ms. Doyle concurred. Mr. Haley stated in Eliot the "trash police" were at the dumpster to inspect trash. He stated this was an invasion of privacy. He stated he was glad to hear the bags would not be clear. He asked how many bags are estimated to be purchased per year. Ms. Doyle replied the average is 1.2

bags per household per year or approximately 126,000 bags. Mr. Haley stated \$31,500 would be going to WasteZero for the bag sales. He explained that currently the transfer station is paid for through the tax revenue which could be reduced voluntarily through a recycling program but with the PAYT Program a \$31,500 expense is being added onto the taxpayer. Mr. Haley stated trash is not free in Berwick; it has been determined that it costs \$448,000 per year to run the transfer station. He stated the natural meter is peoples' income. He spoke about individuals purchasing trash compactors. He agreed with the article in the paper recommending independent impartial accounting rather than depending on the company that distributes the bags. He stated there is already an issue with illegal dumping and could increase with the implementation of this program. Mr. Haley talked about the issue of fairness; he stated that people with larger families have larger houses so they pay more in taxes and will have more trash and pay more for bags. He used the water district as an example of the community paying for things together; there is a perception that it is fair. Discussion ensued regarding tipping fees.

Ms. Andrea Ouellette spoke. She asked if the residents of the mobile home park would be affected by the PAYT program because they pay for a contractor to pick up their trash. Chair Wright reiterated that nothing has been put in place so they may be affected or they may not be affected. Selectman Plante explained that if a private contractor takes the trash to the town transfer station it may affect them.

Chair Wright asked for volunteers to the recycling committee. He asked volunteers to sign up at town hall. He stated the contract with Waste Management is up in 2017 so that leaves a year to do something. He is putting it on the townspeople to offer solutions.

Mr. Bill Langley, Cranberry Meadow Road, spoke. He asked if any board members had talked to the staff at the transfer station to see if they have suggestions to save money. He spoke of his experience working at the transfer station.

Mr. Haley spoke again. He asked what the savings to the town would be. Ms. Doyle reiterated the estimated savings would be \$69,400. He asked for the total charge to residents. Selectman Pendergast said that has not been determined yet. Mr. Haley said that the town would need to charge less than \$69,400 per year for bags otherwise there is no savings only additional costs. He implored the BOS to not implement this program.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy spoke again. She stated South Berwick charges \$5 for a pack of small bags and \$7.50 for a pack of large bags. The bags are sometimes flimsy.

Ms. Doyle reiterated the town sets the price of the bags.

Chair Wright closed the hearing.

V. Reports of Committees

a. BCTV – None

b. Envision Berwick Committee (EBC) –

Mr. Frank Underwood reported an arranged meeting with the Fund of Jupiter was scheduled. He stated Berwick was well represented at the meeting including the TIF consultant. He stated it was a good first step. They are waiting on the appraisal on the Public Service Company piece by the river. They hope to have something finalized by town meeting. The consultant went to the Estabrook School and took samples for testing. Results will be forthcoming.

Mr. Underwood also stated ongoing the first meeting of every month will be a business meeting and the second meeting will be informational. Their business meetings will include budget discussions. They will be submitting a warrant article or be included under some departments budget; whichever the BOS decides.

Mr. Underwood stated a discussion regarding Safe Routes to School is planned at future meetings.

Ms. Pat and Mr. Paul Boisvert spoke about the ice skating rink. Ms. Boisvert reported that, weather permitting, skating may be available this weekend. The rink is located next to the Police Department on the basketball court. She expressed thanks to the volunteers who worked Sunday to help clean the court and place the liner. She reminded people to skate counterclockwise, avoiding the edges and to wear protective head gear and most important enjoy the rink.

Mr. Boisvert asked who would shovel the snow and re-glaze the ice in case of snow. He asked volunteers to contact them.

Mr. Underwood stated they have power at the basketball court so the ability to add music and lights is there. He stated this is a work in progress. He asked for public feedback. He also wanted to thank the Fire Department for filling the rink.

Mr. Dennis Dupuis, Berwick Riverfront, spoke. The committee met this past month and set a date of May 7 to return the dock. He asked for volunteers. They will meet at 9am. A river clean up date is set for June 4th. Mr. Dupuis also stated the committee is ready to go to Phase 2 which includes trench work to redesign the culvert to get an ADA compliant pitch for access. The ADA bench will also be considered during this phase. He asked for volunteers and donations. They need about \$8,000 to complete Phase 2. Donations should be made to the Town of Berwick.

VI. Appointment / Presentation / Other Guests

- a. Alternate Planning Board
 - Sean Winston

Chair Wright tabled this item until Mr. Winston can come before the Board.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. **Ice Skating Donation Fund**

Town Manager Eldridge reported that in order to track donations coming in for the ice skating fund, authorization from the BOS is needed to open an account for this purpose.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to open an account for deposits to the Ice Skating Rink Fund. Selectman Pendergast seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

- b. **Pay as You Throw Program – fee schedule**

See IV. A.

Vice Chair Crichton stated this item should stay on the agenda under unfinished business while the newly formed recycle committee researches the topic and looks at all options.

- c. **Age-Friendly Communities Network**

Town Manager Eldridge stated the Board had received a packet of information on becoming an AARP Friendly Community. The program encourages participation and volunteerism for the older population. The program is sponsored by AARP.

Motion: Selectman Pendergast moved to apply to the AARP Friendly Community. Selectman Plante seconded.

The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

VIII. Communications

- a. **Document regarding PAYT from Ron Deprez, PhD, MPH**

IX. Approval of Warrants

01/21/2016	A/P Warrant #1630	\$ 76,250.45
01/21/2016	Water Warrant #0630	3,233.88
01/282016	Payroll Warrant #1631	43,546.51
01/282016	Water Warrant #0631	6,136.49
01/28/2016	A/P Warrant #1631	97,742.83
02/04/2016	Payroll Warrant #1632	43,881.14

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

The motion carried unanimously: 4 – 0.

X. New Business

- a. **John Corliss requesting approval letter for the location of building at 381 Ridlon Road.**

Item was not discussed. Chair Wright announced that they would take time to look at the request and revisit at a later date if necessary.

XI. Quit Claim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts - None

XII. Abatements / Supplemental - None

XIII. Second Public Comment

Mr. Tom Wright spoke. He reported that the Democratic Caucus will be held in Berwick Town Hall Auditorium on Sunday March 6, 2016 from 1 to 4pm.

XIV. Executive Session - None

XV. Other Business/Non-Agenda item – None

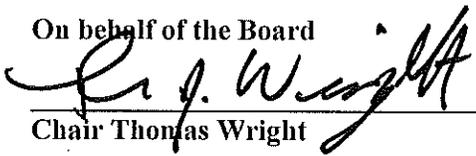
XVI. The Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murray
Town Clerk

The February 2, 2016 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s February 16, 2016 Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. J. Wright", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair Thomas Wright