



Town of Berwick

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

6:30pm

Selectmen's Room
11 Sullivan Street
Berwick, ME 03901

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Thomas Wright, Selectman Rebecca England, Selectman Mark Pendergast and Selectman Joshua Plante.

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- December 20, 2016

Motion: Selectman Plante moved to accept the December 20, 2016 minutes as written. Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4-0

5. First Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the first public comment.

- Eleanor Murphy, Rochester St, spoke. Ms. Murphy stated she watched the December 20th meeting and disagrees with the Pay as You Throw Program and noted that one Board member called the people of Berwick selfish. She stated that the people of Berwick are not selfish; Berwick has more volunteers than most. She was insulted by the comment.

There being no further comments, Chair Wright closed the first public comment.

6. Public Hearing

None

7. Reports of Committees

- BCTV Committee

Town Manager Eldridge reported that BCTV will hold a Public Hearing on January 17th at the BOS meeting on the Comcast franchise agreement. Mr. Tim Cremmin, BCTV, stated people who cannot attend the hearing can email concerns to admin@abctv.comcastbiz.net. In response to a question from Selectman Pendergast, Town Manager Eldridge reported that the Town is trying to increase the number of houses that are serviced; currently Comcast services a minimum of 15 houses. The Town is also negotiating a 5% return of funds compared to the current return of 2.5%. A 10 year contract is being sought which is recommended because franchise agreements are going away so cable companies would no longer have to pay towns anything. Advisory groups are advising seeking the highest number of years for contracts. Eleanor Murphy noted that the Select Board looked into the 5% return but had to wait for this contract to be up.

- Envision Berwick

Chair Wright reported the next meeting is one week from Thursday. The weather is not cooperating for the ice rink but time and effort is still being extended to open the rink.

8. Appointments/Presentations/Other Guests

None

9. Unfinished Business

- Pay as You Throw Program/Recycle Committee

Town Manager Eldridge reported a Recycle notice will be posted at the Transfer Station as requested by the Board at the December 20, 2016 meeting. This will be enforced starting February 1st. A meeting with the transfer station staff has been scheduled to ensure that stickers and/or licenses are being checked. Mr. Eldridge also stated there are concerns that the Transfer Station is not open enough days and this will be discussed during the budget process.

10. Town Manager Report

- The Housing Partnership did not receive State housing funding for the Estabrook School project. They did receive tax credit funding but it will not be enough for the project.
- There will be a Public Hearing on the establishment of Impact Fees at the January 17th BOS meeting.
- John Stoll, Director of Community Development and Planning, has drafted a medical marijuana ordinance which he will present to the Board soon. Discussion regarding moratoriums ensued.
- EnviroVantage will be starting at Prime within a week or two
- A call with Mark Kehaya, Fund of Jupiter, has been scheduled for Friday morning.

11. Selectmen Communications

Chair Wright read a notice from the State DOT stating they are seeking bids for work on Route 236 from Powerhouse Road to Merriam Street to install a center line rumble strip. The State will come before the BOS once bids are received and approved.

12. Approval of Warrants

12/22/2016	A/P Warrant #1725	\$ 18,107.50
12/22/2016	Water Warrant #0725	\$ 4,282.82

12/29/2016	Payroll Warrant #1726	\$ 50,912.57
12/29/2016	A/P Warrant 1726	\$146,874.81
12/29/2016	Water Warrant #0726	\$ 42,020.92
01/05/2017	Payroll Warrant #1727	\$ 56,255.32

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.

13. New Business

None

14. Quitclaim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts

None

15. Abatements/Supplements

- Abatement for Map R016 Lot 6, 275 Little River Road

Motion: Selectman Plante made a motion to accept the Abatement for Map R016 Lot 6, 275 Little River Road. Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4– 0.

16. Second Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the second public comment.

- Eleanor Murphy, Rochester St, spoke. Ms. Murphy asked for an update of the Sober House. She read they had a water leak upstairs and noticed they had a dumpster on site. Town Manager Eldridge replied that the Code Enforcement Officer (CEO) visited the site to assess the damage. Violations have been sent to the court since the owner is still in non-compliance.
- Selectman Plante commented on the Pay as You Throw Program or any other policy that is being considered for the Town. He stated he wished discussions be limited to facts and not antidotes or spacious arguments that do not address the issue and are only meant to drum up emotional reactions. Town Manager Eldridge responded that several Waste Management companies will present to the Board and the public with facts regarding Pay as You Throw.

There being no further comments, Chair Wright closed the second public comment.

17. Executive Session

None

18. Other Business/Non-Agenda Items

- Town Manager Eldridge announced the Budget process will begin after the next BOS meeting. Department Heads will be meeting with the Budget Committee during the day from 10 – 12 and then with the BOS weekly on Tuesdays beginning January 24th. The BOS meetings will begin at 6:30 or will be held after the regularly scheduled meetings (February 7 and 21). All meetings will be broadcast on BCTV.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Murray
Town Clerk**

**The January 3, 2017 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s
January 17, 2017 Meeting.**

On behalf of the Board
