

Town of Berwick



BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

Tuesday, August 1, 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, Vice Chair Edward Ganiere, Selectman Rebecca England, Selectman Mark Pendergast and Selectman Joshua Plante.

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Stephen Eldridge, Transfer Station Supervisor Neil Hokinson, and Town Clerk Patricia Murray.

Guests: State Representative Beth O'Connor

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- July 18, 2017

Selectman Plante requested several additions to the minutes. Chair Wright reviewed the 1 MRSA § 400-414 Freedom of Access Act Record of Meeting Required law.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to accept the July 18, 2017 minutes as written. Selectman England seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 4:1 with Selectman Plante opposing

5. First Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the first public comment.

Neil Hokinson, Transfer Station Supervisor, spoke. He stated that the elimination of the free day caused no issues; residents were fine with paying. He has seen a slight decrease in recycling; this weekend yielded 2.5 containers compared to 6 or 7.

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

6. Public Hearing

None.

7. Reports of Committees

- **BCTV Committee**

Ms. Terri Wright, Interim Coordinator, was present and reported the following:

- The site is now streaming live.
- The following have been recorded:
 - Riverfront clean-up day
 - Smoke Stack removal
 - Ross Bachelder remake
 - Berwick for a Lifetime meeting
 - Town Vote slide
 - Author Talk – KM Doherty at Library
 - Dunn Family Farm Day
 - Interview with State Representative Beth O'Connor
- Public Service Announcements on Adopt-a-Spot and Form Based Code have been posted.
- An emergency ticker is now available for Town, Fire and Police departments to post emergency incidents such as road closings, office closings, accidents, etc. Ms. Wright is working with MSAD #60 to set them up to post emergency incidents also.
- Agendas to meetings are now displaying prior to the meeting start.
- Two wireless mics have been activated.
- Ms. Wright is working with the Hussy School and the middle schools to create events slides.
- Photos were loaded from Lassel Architects for their presentation to the BOS.
- The BCTV equipment office is now functioning better with a desk.
- Residents have expressed approval of the old movies and changes to BCTV.

- **Envision Berwick**

Chair Wright reported the PSNH parcel clean-up was successful with several volunteers including the staff of the USS Springfield.

8. Appointments/Presentations/Other Guests

- **Appointment EBC**

- Melinda Proulx – 2 year term

Ms. Proulx was present. She is interested on serving on the EBC after reading their information.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to appoint Melinda Proulx to the Envision Berwick Committee for a two year term to expire June 30, 2019. Selectman England seconded the motion.

The motion passed: 5:0

9. Unfinished Business

- **Marijuana Ordinance** (proposed ordinances due to Town Manager August 11th for November 7th Referendum Election)

Town Manager Eldridge stated the Board needs to finalize the ordinance by August 11, 2017 to meet deadlines for the November 7, 2017 Referendum Election. He presented three options for the ordinance which will go to voters on November 7th; a 180 day moratorium, a complete ban, or separating the 5 classes; store, cultivation facility, products manufacturing facility, testing facility, and social club . He spoke of a survey that had been offered online which resulted in a strong support for all classes being allowed in Town.

Each Board member expressed his/her thoughts. Chair Wright invited State Representative Beth O'Connor to speak. She informed the BOS of the State committee of 17 representatives working on State licensing. She also noted the State is willing to assist cities and towns through the process of developing ordinances.

Mr. John Poulin, Blackberry Hill Road, spoke. He appreciates the Boards' service and also concurs with a moratorium to give the Town more time to write an ordinance once the State is finalized on regulations.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, spoke. She is concerned with an increase in police duty if marijuana establishments move into Berwick.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to submit the Municipality of Berwick Moratorium Ordinance on Retail Marijuana Establishments and Retail Marijuana Stores and Retail Marijuana Social Clubs to the Town Manager for placement on the November 7, 2017 Referendum Election ballot. Selectman England seconded the motion.

The motion passed: 3:2 with Chair Wright and Selectman Plante opposing.

- **Tax Acquired Property Bids**
 - **M/L R017-032, 0 Togue Road**

A bid from Joseph Patenaude was received for M/L R017-032, 0 Togue Road in the amount of \$2,000.00. The minimum bid for this property is \$2,000.00.

Motion: Selectman Ganiere moved to accept the \$2,000.00 bid from Joseph Patenaude for M/L R017-032, 0 Togue Road. Selectman England seconded the motion.

The motion passed: 5:0

- **M/L R054-008-B-002, 0 Jewell Lane**

A bid from Joseph Patenaude was received for M/L R054-008-B-002, 0 Jewell Lane in the amount of \$5,500.00. The minimum bid for this property is \$12,500.00.

Motion: Chair Wright moved to deny the \$5,000.00 bid from Joseph Patenaude for M/L R054-008-B-002, 0 Jewell Lane. Selectman Plante seconded the motion.

The motion passed: 5:0

10. Town Manager Report

- The Library has scheduled the meeting with the BOS for September 12, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Library.
- The preparation for the TIF District has been commended. Scott Benson, Consultant, is working on credit enhancement.

- Prime Update: The remaining concrete should be crushed by Friday. The contract has been extended to August due to unanticipated circumstances; a below ground oil tank discovery. This will be removed when appropriate measure are worked out.
- The TIF for the Village Overlay District has been approved by the State DECD. Scott Benson, Consultant, will be coming to Berwick to review the TIF with Finance Director Maureen Finger and Town Manager Eldridge and develop a draft Credit Enhancement document for the Prime site once it is turned over to Fund of Jupiter.

11. Selectmen Communications

- Chair Wright read a letter from ComCast regarding rate and service changes. The letter was also sent to all consumers.

12. Approval of Warrants

06-30-2017	A/P Warrant #1754	\$ 9,918.82
06-30-2017	Water Warrant #0754	\$ 7.42
07-20-2017	A/P Warrant #1803	\$ 111,872.30
07-20-2017	Water Warrant #0803	\$ 1,542.32
07-27-2017	Payroll Warrant #1804	\$ 61,490.72
07-27-2017	A/P Warrant #1804	\$ 127,340.84
07-27-2017	Water Warrant #0804	\$ 5,463.48
08-03-2017	Payroll Warrant #1805	\$ 58,331.73

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

The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

13. New Business

14. Quitclaim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts

15. Abatements/Supplements

16. Second Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the second public comment.

Mr. Ken Raine asked where the survey on retail marijuana was accessible. Town Manager Eldridge replied on the internet through the Town’s webpage and Facebook. Mr. Rains inquired if there were controls for participants being Berwick residents. Mr. Eldridge concurred.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy spoke. She stated that not all residents have computers and therefore would not be able to participate in an online survey.

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

17. Executive Session

Executive Session

- Title 1 §405(6)(A) - Discussion of Personnel

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to enter into Executive Session per MSRA Title 1 §405(6)(A) – Discussion of Personnel. Selectmen Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 5 – 0.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:30pm.

The Board adjourned its regular meeting at 7:41pm. Chair Wright noted no actions were made during the Executive Session.

18. Other Business/Non-Agenda Items

None.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Murray
Town Clerk**

The August 1, 2017 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s August 15, 2017 Meeting.

On behalf of the Board
