



Town of Berwick

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

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.

The Board reviewed budgets for BCTV, Berwick Public Library and Berwick Police Department.

2. Roll Call

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

Board Members Absent: Selectman Rebecca England and Selectman Mark Pendergast

Staff Members Present: Town Manager Stephen Eldridge, Finance Director Maureen Finger and Town Clerk Patricia Murray.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 6, 2018

Motion: Vice Chair Ganiere moved to accept the February 6, 2018 minutes as written. Chair Wright seconded the motion.

The motion carried: 3:0

5. First Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the first public comment.

Ms. Ruth Bleau, spoke. She thanked the Board for tackling the task of approving the budget. She also spoke in support of the library's request for more funding.

Mr. Paul Boisvert, spoke. He reported that the Berwick Public Library is hosting The Berwick Historical Society event on slave population in Berwick at 3pm February 21.

Mr. Larry Goth spoke in support of the library.

Mr. Nat Montgomery spoke in support of the library.

Ms. Kristen Doloff spoke in support of the library.

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

6. Public Hearing

None.

7. Reports of Committees

- **BCTV Committee**

No report.

- **Envision Berwick**

Mr. Paul Boisvert was present. The Committee is still looking for members for the Economic Development sub-committee. EBC is looking into a brand for Berwick; describing the town in a few words. The Great Falls Park river project is ongoing. A survey is going out. The pedestrian bridge project is ongoing also. The Committee is looking for attic pictures of the old trestle bridge. Mr. Boisvert expressed his disappointment in budget cuts of 50% for EBC.

Ms. Pat Boisvert reported that Age Friendly Berwick Committee is now known as Berwick For a Lifetime. The committee is seeking more members; they meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 9am. They are working on bus routes to the Library, wellness checks, grants for electronic sign at Town Hall, and making sand available to residents.

8. Appointments/Presentations/Other Guests

- Appointments to BCTV
~ Jody Puffer – Regular Member, term expiring June 30, 2020

Applicant not present.

~ Cloyd Tavenner – Alternate Member, term expiring June 30, 2020

Applicant not present.

- Re-Appointments to Board of Appeals
~ Ron Vigue, term expiring December 2018

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Ron Vigue to the Berwick Board of Appeals. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ Russell Gagner, term expiring December 2019

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Russell Gagner to the Berwick Board of Appeals. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ Patricia Boisvert, term expiring December 2020

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Patricia Boisvert to the Berwick Board of Appeals. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

- Re-Appointments to Planning Board

~ David Andreesen – Regular Member, term expiring December 2019

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint David Andreesen to the Berwick Planning Board. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ Mike LaRue - Alternate Member, term expiring December 2020

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Mike LaRue to the Berwick Planning Board. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ David Dow - Regular Member, term expiring December 2020

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint David Dow to the Berwick Planning Board. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ Paul Boisvert – Regular Member, term expiring December 2020

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Paul Boisvert to the Berwick Planning Board. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

~ Sean Winston – Alternate Member, term expiring December 2020

Motion: Chair Wright moved to reappoint Sean Winston to the Berwick Planning Board. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

- Other Guests

~ Rad Nichols, Executive Director, Coast Bus

Mr. Rad Nichols was present to discuss funding Coast Bus. Berwick has been funding \$11,086 for years. Mr. Nichols stated the minimum is \$20,000 which is set by the Coast Bus Board of Directors. He explained there are two bus routes through Berwick; the route 1 with Dover/Somersworth and the commuter route to the Naval Shipyard. The Shipyard reimburses Coast for the commuter route. He also stated there is an opening on the Board of Directors and invited a member of the BOS to join. The BOS did not make a decision regarding the increase in funding.

9. Unfinished Business

None.

10. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Eldridge reported the following:

- Prime Tanning Site Update: Town Manager Eldridge received a document from DEP stating they would be removing the tank. Mr. Kehaya is reviewing Phase 1 ESA prior to closing. The DEP needs to finish their review prior to closing. A vote at Town Meeting

may be needed for the parcel of property near the sewer pumping station; Mr. Eldridge will check. The closing is tentatively scheduled prior to April 1.

- Kathy Connor, SMPD, who has been doing planning for the Town has resigned. SMPD will supply another planner for the Town.
- Town Manager Eldridge was a speaker at the Seacoast Leadership conference.

11. Selectmen Communications

Chair Wright received a letter from Frank Underwood that he hasn't had a chance to read yet.

12. Approval of Warrants

02-08-2018	A/P Warrant #1832	\$ 86,745.89
02-08-2018	Water A/P Warrant #0832	\$ 2,220.72
02-15-2018	Payroll Warrant #1833	\$ 50,754.78
02-15-2018	A/P Warrant #1833	\$ 85,171.95
02-15-2018	Water A/P Warrant #0833	\$ 1,066.68
02-22-2018	Payroll Warrant #1834	\$ 48,996.95

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

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

13. New Business

- Cost Recovery Fee Schedule

The following changes were presented to the BOS for approval:

BOARD OF APPEALS APPLICATION

~~\$100.00~~ **\$175.00** plus mailing costs. Applicant shall incur any required review costs per section 9.8 in the Berwick Land Use Ordinance.

SKETCH PLAN SUBDIVISION

Incurred review costs before Preliminary Plan will be billed to the applicant and will be due before Final Plan.

Mr. Paul Boisvert, Planning Board member, explained the sketch plan fee is a fee for applying at the sketch plan level.

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to approve the changes to the Cost Recovery Fee Schedule as presented. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3:0

- Hershey Hirschkop, The Housing Partnership

Ms. Hershey Hirschkop, The Housing Partnership, was present. The Housing Partnership is still interested in building senior housing in Berwick. Ms. Hirschkop asked about the Estabrook School property. She read that the Cemetery Road property may not be considered for the fire station and Estabrook may be. Chair Wright replied that the fire station land purchase is not going to vote until November to give the BOS time to look at all possible locations. Chair Wright encouraged Ms.

Hirschkop to meet with the Town Manager. Vice Chair Ganiere suggested to the BOS that they add this into discussions about the fire station.

14. Quitclaim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts

None.

15. Abatements/Supplements

None.

16. Second Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the second public comment.

Mr. Paul Boisvert spoke. He asked if there was room at Estabrook for both a fire station and an elderly housing unit. Chair Wright replied that driveways and access roads are required for fire equipment.

Mr. Joshua Plante, 39 Old Route 4, spoke. He asked if the Board received any feedback from the meeting with the Lebanon BOS about the cost structure for MSAD 60. Chair Wright replied there has been a lot of discussion after the Lebanon meeting but no official meetings. Selectman Plante stated public reaction is not positive and the behavior is being viewed as shady, unethical and poor judgement. He stated the Board reached out to Lebanon, purposefully excluding North Berwick, which shows Berwick is not being good partners.

Chair Wright stated Town Manager Eldridge was asked by the BOS to contact Lebanon. Lebanon invited Berwick to their meeting.

Discussion ensued as to how the meeting initiated.

Chair Wright explained that the funding formula has been publicly discussed since September. Town personnel met with the Superintendent and staff, the School Board and the Lebanon Selectmen.

Selectman Plante spoke about his conversations with the North Berwick Town Manager who stated he did not know of any meetings.

Discussion regarding the funding formula, the meeting with Lebanon and valuation ensued.

Ms. Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, spoke. She gave a history of the funding formula with the School District. Discussion regarding the funding formula ensued.

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

17. Executive Session

- Title 36 §841(2)(E) – Poverty Abatement

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to enter into Executive Session per MSRA Title 36 §841(2) E – Poverty Abatement. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3-0.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 8:45pm.

The Board resumed its regular meeting at 8:55pm.

Motion: Selectman Plante made a motion to deny the request for a Poverty Abatement. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously: 3-0.

18. Other Business/Non-Agenda Items

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

**Patricia Murray
Town Clerk**

**The February 20, 2018 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s
March 6, 2018 Meeting.**

On behalf of the Board
