



Town of Berwick

BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

6:30pm

Selectmen's Room
11 Sullivan Street
Berwick, ME 03901

1. Call to Order

Chair Wright called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Chair Thomas Wright, Vice Chair Ed Ganiere, and Selectman Rebecca England

Board Members Absent: Selectman Kenneth Manning, Jr. and Selectman Mark Pendergast.

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 10, 2018

Tabled.

5. First Public Comment

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

6. Public Hearing

None.

7. Reports of Committees

- BCTV Committee

Terri Wright, Coordinator, reported the following.

From January 1 – December 31, 2018 BCTV produced over 200 videos and public service announcements. This works out to almost 17 videos a month and is more than BCTV has ever produced. This is thanks to volunteers like Tammy Cole and Maureen Nikitas. As well as videographers/editors Ralph Morang and Kevin Gray. It is also thanks to Ryan Moore who covers all of the town board meetings.

BCTV recently purchased the archive module from Telvue. This module loads all videos sent to YouTube or to our hypercaster onto the community media site at archive.org. Simply click on all videos and then type in Berwick Community TV. Our thumbnail will show and you can click here to access all 166 videos loaded. This site, like YouTube is free. The difference is that this site will not load any commercials/paid ads.

Ms. Wright just finished a public service announcement that is being distributed to all public access stations in Maine. The PSA is for the Community Television Association of ME and it is regarding the PEG non-discrimination bill. I want to thank Beth O'Connor because she has already thrown her support behind this very important bill. Again, to reiterate, the bill will support towns and cities by strengthening the negotiating language. It will set the minimum of houses per mile for expansion to 15 – helping rural Maine areas. It will also force cable companies to allow our program guide to show with all others and to allow our signal to go out in HD – same as all other stations. Most importantly, it will stop Charter from channel slamming access stations. Something we have been fortunate that Comcast has not started.

BCTV will be covering the walk through of the North Berwick Elementary School tomorrow evening. The forum at the Hussey School and at the middle school will also be covered. For residents not able to make these events, it is a great way to stay in touch and keep up on repairs and renovations recommended at our schools.

The Alliance for Community Media is going on a road show and will be at the Portland Media Center on February 22nd for a series of strategic planning discussions with PEG stations. They will talk about potential revenue and channel impacts along with scenarios stations should consider to strengthen positions in the coming months.

We recently did a public service announcement for the Berwick for a Lifetime group. This was an extremely popular video and has reached over 2400 people and has been shared more than any other post. Meet our local celebrities - Ruth Bleau and Pat Boisvert at the Berwick Public Library on January 15th at 10:30 am for conversation, games, knitting, and other activities.

Coming up this month:

No. Berwick Elementary forum – January 9th

Table of plenty celebrates 25 years! - January 13th

8th grade Band & Chorus concert – January 15th

NMS Chorus concert – January 16th

MSAD 60 board meeting- January. 17th

Hussey School forum – January 23rd

NMS winter band concert – January 24th

- **Envision Berwick**

No report.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 10th.

Department Reports

None.

8. Appointments/Presentations/Other Guests

None.

9. Unfinished Business

None.

10. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Eldridge reported the following:

- A price was secured from Maine DEP to replace the buried fuel tanks which are in need of replacement. The price is \$92,000.00. Town Manager Eldridge will plan for this cost over a five-year period. Testing of the tanks will be conducted annually.
- Town Manager Eldridge received a request from Lebanon and North Berwick for a tri-town meeting. February 21 and March 7 are possible dates. The BOS will let Town Manager Eldridge know availability.
- FRPs for a construction manager for the Fire Station project have gone out. Interviews are scheduled for two of the four who submitted proposals.
- A traffic study meeting was held. Sidewalk work is being looked at.
- FY2020 budget process is underway. State revenue sharing may increase to 5% this year.
- The Fire Station bond application will go out this week.
- Chair Wright stated wetlands delineation were conducted and there should be no foreseeable issue with the installation of a new road. Town Manager Eldridge stated Public Works did some test digging at the site and did not encounter ledge.

11. Selectmen Communications

Chair Wright reported the following:

- Channels MGM HD and Impact TV will be eliminated from Comcast.
- The BOS received a letter from Senator Susan Collins. The letter announced Senator Collins as the Chair of the Senate Aging Committee, and Chair of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.

12. Approval of Warrants

12-13-2018	A/P Warrant #1924	\$ 66,650.80
12-13-2018	Water A/P Warrant #0924	\$ 7,318.12
12-13-2018	Payroll Warrant #1924	\$ 48,116.90
12-20-2018	A/P Warrant #1925	\$ 45,933.09
12-20-2018	Water A/P Warrant #0925	\$ 487.04
12-20-2018	Payroll Warrant #1925	\$ 52,257.53
12-27-2018	A/P Warrant #1926	\$ 127,817.17

12-27-2018	Water A/P Warrant #0926	\$ 1,883.33
12-27-2018	Payroll Warrant #1926	\$ 55,952.84
01-03-2019	A/P Warrant #1927	\$ 784,647.80
01-03-2019	Payroll Warrant #1927	\$ 54,429.30
01-10-2019	Payroll Warrant #1928	\$ 57,174.83

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

The motion carried: 3:0

13. New Business

- Jessica Feenstra, Abandoned Section of Route 4 (Discontinued to Maintenance)

Town Manager Eldridge received a request for the Town to resume maintenance of the abandoned section of Old Route 4. Ms. Feenstra will need to come before the Board and would need to go on a warrant for vote. Ms. Feenstra was not present. This item will be rescheduled.

- Andy Buckman; Request for funding from Contingency for Sign Replacement

Mr. Buckman gave a history of the bicentennial sign located in the front of town hall. The sign and post have rotted and need replacing. The price for replacement of the sign and post is \$3,000.00. Mr. Buckman is requesting funding from the Town.

The Legion will be looking at repairing the Liberty Bell which is located in the Town Hall Auditorium. He also stated the stage floor of the auditorium is rutted and may need to be checked.

Mr. Buckman also asked the Board, the Town Manager and the Town Clerk for nominations for the Citizen of the Year and Volunteer of the Year awards. The banquet will be in May of 2019.

The car show is scheduled for June 2, 2019.

Motion: Chair Wright made a motion to take up to \$3,000.00 from the Town's Contingency Fund or undesignated surplus or building budget for the purpose of funding the sign replacement. Selectman England seconded the motion.

The motion carried: 3:0

- 30 Day Foreclosure Notices

Town Manager Eldridge noted that 30-day notice of foreclosure went out to approximately 30 homeowners. Foreclosure will proceed in February if taxes remain unpaid.

- Chris Weismann, Water Department

Mr. Weismann spoke to the notice that went out with water bills in January. The notice informed water users that recent water tests conducted showed a level of total haloacetic acids in the water system is 72 parts per billion which is above the maximum contaminant level (60 parts per billion) allowed. The water plant operators make choices to limit the disinfectant by-products produced which has always been the practice. The October test showed unexpected high levels. Requirements for notification to the public is thirty days when a disinfectant by-product number is exceeded because of the extraordinarily low health risk. Many other things that could happen would require a 24-hour notification such as E. coli in the water or a very high nitrate level. Once the test sample is taken the results often take a month to be received at the Maine Drinking Water Program who notifies the Water Department of any violation. Once that notification is received the 30-day timeline starts. In the future, the Water Department will

notify customers immediately about any health-related water issues. They are collecting email addresses for this purpose in addition to mailing notices.

Mr. Weismann spoke specifically to the current issue stating that if two liters of water with this level of haloacetic acids was ingested every single day of one's entire life or 80 years then a one in one/millionth chance of having a health effect exists. He stated it is difficult to keep disinfectant by-products out of the water since the river is full of organic matter and gets through filters in small amounts. It then combines with chlorine and forms compounds which are carcinogenic such as in a case of haloacetic acids.

Mr. Weismann is looking at ways to eliminate exceeding these levels. He understands why the test was so high and he believes the water is completely safe now. Another test was taken and results will be within a month. He explained the problem occurs with surface water.

Vice Chair Ganiere asked how often this particular sample is performed. Mr. Weismann stated the tests are on July 18 and every three months following. The test for this reporting period was October 18, 2018. The annual average is typically 50 parts per billion and can affect test results if there is a high test result. Selectman England asked for a running average and an actual count. Town Manager Eldridge stated this is an on-going issue throughout the State because of surface water. The Board reiterated the need to quickly inform the public of any issues.

14. Quitclaim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts

None.

15. Abatements/Supplements

None.

16. Second Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the second public comment.

Eleanor Murphy, Rochester Street, spoke. She spoke to a resident that has spoken to a water department staff member that said it wasn't a worry since a lot would have to be drunk in order to get cancer. Ms. Murphy stated this was not an appropriate comment and an explanation would have been more appreciated.

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

17. Executive Session

None.

18. Other Business/Non-Agenda Items

- There is a Winter Farmers Market on Sunday the 13th.
- Berwick Fire Department assisted with the Somersworth mill fire.

19. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Murray
Town Clerk

**The January 8, 2019 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s
January 22, 2019 Meeting.**

On behalf of the Board
