



# Town of Berwick

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BOARD OF ASSESSORS MINUTES

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Tuesday, April 23, 2019

6:30pm

Selectmen's Room  
11 Sullivan Street  
Berwick, ME 03901

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### 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 Ed Ganiere, Selectman Rebecca England, Selectman Mark Pendergast and Selectman Kenneth Manning, Jr.

Board Members Absent: None

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

- March 26, 2019

**Motion:** Vice Chair Ganiere moved to accept the March 26, 2019 minutes as written. Selectman Manning seconded the motion.

**The motion carried: 3:0 with Selectmen England and Pendergast abstaining**

- April 9, 2019

**Motion:** Vice Chair Ganiere moved to accept the April 9, 2019 minutes as written. Selectman Pendergast seconded the motion.

**The motion carried: 3:0 with Chair Wright abstaining**

### 5. First Public Comment

Chair Wright opened the first public comment.

Mr. Frank Underwood, 21 Keay Road, spoke. Mr. Underwood gave a history of the Estabrook School and the Housing Partnership's desire to construct a senior housing unit at the school. This was approved by voters at the November 8, 2016 Town Referendum Election. The contract lapsed as the Housing Partnership did not receive their funding. Since then, the voters approved the site for the construction of the new fire station. He urged the Board to conduct a meeting with the Housing Partnership before any plan to demolish the Estabrook School is finalized. Mr. Underwood also suggested all the Boards i.e. Planning, Selectmen, etc. get together for a workshop regarding the downtown development.

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, Coordinator, was present. The second channel was connected by Comcast. Televue will install the second server on Thursday April 25<sup>th</sup>. The on-air date is May 1, 2019. Channel 22 will remain as a public educational channel and the government channel number is TBA.

The PEG bill is going back to the UT committee for submission to the legislature.

### **• Envision Berwick**

Mr. Frank Underwood reported that the traffic plan will be presented Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the EBC meeting. The Master Plan Committee is ready to meet with the Town Manager and Finance Director.

Town Manager Eldridge stated James Bellissimo met with MDOT regarding the bike/pedestrian path for downtown.

## **Department Reports**

None.

## **8. Appointments/Presentations/Other Guests**

### **• Appointment:**

- Ernie Wood, ZBA – 3-year term

Mr. Wood is a lifelong resident of the State of Maine. He was in the education field for 32 years as an administrator and classroom teacher. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Wood is retired and would like to give back to his community. He volunteered on the South Berwick Planning Board. He currently volunteers for the VFW and sports announcing for high school sports.

**Motion:** Selectman Pendergast moved to appoint Ernest Wood to the Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

**The motion carried: 5:0**

- Rick Ingalls, ZBA – 3-year term

Mr. Ingalls was not present. Chair Wright knows Mr. Ingalls personally. He is a former Selectman and was on the School Board.

**Motion:** Chair Wright moved to appoint Rick Ingalls to the Board of Appeals for a three-year term. Vice Chair Ganiere seconded the motion.

**The motion carried: 5:0**

- Presentation:
  - Steve Connolly; MSAD Proposed Budget Review

Cancelled. Will be rescheduled.

## **9. Unfinished Business**

- Estabrook/New Fire Station

Chair Wright gave a brief background on the site. The plan includes a new roadway to Sullivan Street which will be for emergency vehicles only. The parking lot will not be connected to the Police Station. The site has wetlands, drainage issues and the existing Estabrook School which inhibits the placement of the new station partly because of the grade of the land at the school site. The committee has been meeting with the architects, contractor and engineers and keeping the existing Estabrook building is not an option. With a new sally port for the police station any public access around the building will be prohibited.

Town Manager Eldridge has spoken to Chief Plante and Chief Towne who concur that any public traffic at the complex will be difficult.

Selectman Pendergast stated he is not impressed with the plans for the new fire station. He doesn't understand why the grade would remain at the same pitch if the building is being removed.

Town Manager Eldridge stated the concept plans will go before the Planning Board on May 2, 2019.

Discussion regarding keeping the Estabrook School building and the grade of the site ensued with the Board and Frank Underwood. Chair Wright stated the Town is looking to buy land on Sullivan Street to avoid wetlands on the site. Town Manager Eldridge stated there is a meeting with the architects and engineers prior to their presentation to the Planning Board on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Police Department at 5pm. He recommends that the Board of Selectmen attend.

## **10. Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Eldridge reported the following:

- Town Manager Eldridge, Planning Technician James Bellissimo, and Chair Wright have a meeting tomorrow with Infinity LED Company regarding replacing street lights with LED lights.
- Rick Vandenberg, Crede Engineering, has sent packets regarding the environmental work done at Prime to prospective contractors.
- There has been no response from Mark Kehaya regarding a May visit to Berwick.
- A regional fire training has been scheduled at the Prime site in June. Mr. Kehaya gave permission.
- Public Works has been working on putting down material on some of the dirt roads. Old Pine Hill will be closed for ditching.
- Work at Memorial Field includes replacing dugouts, cleaning up fields, painting the concrete block building and replacing the roof of the building. Opening Day is scheduled for April 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The traffic study public hearing presentation is Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
- The first draft of the marijuana rules and regulations was received from the State.
- The mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Estabrook demolition project was last week. Only one contractor attended. Town Manger Eldridge extended the bid deadline to May 9<sup>th</sup>. The Board directed the Town Manager to put the bid back out.

Selectman Pendergast reported two volunteers from his office weeded the islands near Town Hall. Salmon Falls donated the bark mulch. He feels the rest of the Town is not impressive. He suggested striping the streets, sweeping the streets, repairing sidewalks and dressing up downtown to attract potential builders/contractors to the Prime site. Town Manager Eldridge stated Public Works will be mulching the gardens around the Town Hall building. Discussion ensued regarding the aesthetics of downtown.

**11. Selectmen Communications**

No report.

**12. Approval of Warrants**

04-11-2019	A/P Warrant #1941	\$ 835,316.89
04-11-2019	Water A/P Warrant #0941	\$ 3,136.61
04-18-2019	A/P Warrant #1942	\$ 26,051.56
04-18-2019	Water A/P Warrant #0942	\$ 372.92
04-18-2019	Payroll Warrant #1942	\$ 52,572.07
04-25-2019	Payroll Warrant #1944	\$ 58,555.81

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

**The motion carried: 5:0**

**13. New Business**

- BOS to set Public Hearing date for the June 11, 2019 Town Election; May 28<sup>th</sup>

**Motion:** Vice Chair Ganiere moved to set the public hearing for the June 11, 2019 Town Election on May 28, 2019. Selectman Manning seconded the motion.

**The motion carried: 5:0**

- BOS to sign Warrant and Notice of Election for MSAD 60 June 11<sup>th</sup> Election

The Board signed the MSAD 60 Warrant.

**14. Quitclaim Deeds and/or Installment Contracts**

None.

**15. Abatements/Supplements**

None.

**16. Second Public Comment**

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

**17. Executive Session**

None.

**18. Other Business/Non-Agenda Items**

None.

**19. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia Murray**  
Town Clerk

**The April 23, 2019 BOS Meeting Minutes – Signed as approved at the Board of Selectmen’s May 14, 2019 meeting.**

**On behalf of the Board**

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