

North Berwick Board of Selectmen's Minutes: April 28, 2009

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES APRIL 28, 2009

Present: Chairman Folsom, Selectman Danforth, Selectman Bourbon, Selectman Drew and Selectman MacDougall.

Also Present: Denise Van Campen (Business Manager), Susan Austin (Assistant Superintendent), Paul Andrade (Superintendent) and Dwayne Morin.

Chairman Folsom opened the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 6:36 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. New Business:

A. MSAD 60: Discussion of MSAD 60 Budget

Susan Austin informed the Board of Selectmen that Paul Andrade was going over MSAD 60 budget with Berwick's Board of Selectmen and that he may or may not attend this meeting tonight.

Susan Austin discussed with the Board of Selectmen that we were able to pass a decrease on to the towns. From the budgeting stand point we decreased our budget about \$90,000.00 over last year. MSAD 60 was pleased to be given more money in the stimulus package for this year's aid to the district than what was anticipated. We were able to allocate \$484,421.00 back to the districts.

With this MSAD 60 had serious cuts, we cut 9^{1/2} teaching positions, 2^{1/2} Ed Tech positions.

We did some reconfiguration of the Middle School in terms of teaming due to our decline in enrollment at that level. We went down to three teams. The class sizes are going to be a little larger than what we had hoped for, but feel this is still manageable.

Selectman Bourbon asked could you share the class size numbers.

Susan Austin answered that the numbers will be in the 20 to 22 student range.

Susan Austin explained that people have been think or hearing about is the laptop initiative from the State. We are still in limbo; we have set aside \$250,000.00 to participate in the laptop project. If the project fails then we will be able to give more back to the towns. We would not be able to return the entire \$250,000.00 because we have to consider the entire technology piece and ramifications if we didn't receive the laptops and what that would mean. Regardless we would give back more funds than what we have at this time.

Selectman Bourbon asked what would some of the barriers the district is concerned about that would prevent us from moving forward with the High School Laptop Initiative.

Susan Austin answered finances; if the State piece doesn't go through we can't afford to participate in the Laptop Initiative. We have built it into the budget and we are hoping that it goes through. If the funding comes through then not only will we be able to support the High School and the Middle School with that one to one level. They will also take the laptop out of the High School and some of the ones from the Middle School. The district can purchase the used computers and move them back into the Elementary Schools which would be a substantial benefit.

Selectman Bourbon questioned regarding infrastructure and if the district is ready to go wireless and have various components in place.

Susan Austin answered that is not a barrier necessarily, it is not a barrier at the High School, but it is also built in the package from the State.

Selectman MacDougall asked about the stimulus funds and how you structure everything. The funds will not be present next year, questioned how the district was planning to stay out of negative next year, and continue to run the program.

Paul Andrade answered that there are three processes to the stimulus fund. There is a State Stabilization Fund which is the money that went to the States to try to plug their budget wholes they encountered. There is additional Title 1 money which is for immediate reading services. Then there is additional local entitlement money which is for the special education department.

The stabilization fund is the money notified to us by the Department of Education because of the State budget was going to see a decrease of \$375,000.00. We froze spending, and cut costs by not filling employment vacancies. This stimulus package passed, the Governor as well as the Commissioner committed to use these funds to make up the gaps in the State budget. We have

been reassured by the Department of Education that by the end of this year we will get the \$379,000.00 that would have been depleted and the fund not been passed.

MSAD 60 Budget Meeting – May 7th, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Noble High School

B. Maine Community Foundation: Discussion on Available Funding

Dwayne explained that Elroy Day left an endowment to the town for approximately \$250,000.00.

The endowment is administered by the Maine Community Foundation. There is a Board that reviews the town's projects and they select from that list for which they would like to use the funds.

The requirements of the town projects are; the enhancement of the community and the beautification of the community and programs for children. Elroy Day wanted to see beautification of the downtown and surrounding areas. Elroy Day was conservation minded and held these values near and dear to his heart.

Selectmen Bourbon suggested the construction of the Dummy Light Garden.

Dwayne replied that is certainly a project that will be looked into. There are a few projects that we have been discussing; the sidewalk and lights in the Mill Field, and the trail at the Community Center.

Selectman Drew also suggested a canoe launch on to the Great Works River.

Dwayne asked the Board for ideas for projects in town so that he can put together a list and an estimated cost to be submitted to the Maine Community Foundation.

3. Other Business:

The Mill Field Festival Committee and the Farmers Market will attend a meeting with the Board of Selectmen on May 5, 2009.

4. Executive Session – 1 MRSA 405(6)(A) Personnel

Chairman Folsom moved to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m., Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Selectman Bourbon moved to come out of Executive Session at 8:40 p.m., Selectman MacDougall seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

Selectman Bourbon moved to allow the Town Manager to adjust the pay for Jerry Schulmaier to compensate him for the responsibilities as a director of the transfer station. Selectman Drew seconded a motion. Vote, 5-0

4. Adjournment:

Selectman MacDougall moved to adjourn at 8:43 p.m., Selectman Bourbon seconded a motion.
Vote, 5-0

Respectively Submitted:
Anita Lambert, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Elaine Folsom

Selectman: Paul Danforth

Selectman: Anthony Bourbon

Selectman: Gregg Drew

Selectman: Jay MacDougall