

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes June 29, 2016

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES JUNE 29, 2016

Present: Chairman Galemmo, Selectman Cowan, Selectman Hall,
Selectman Johnson, Sr., Selectman Johnson, Jr.

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

Chairman Galemmo called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Executive Session - Personnel Matter

It was moved by Selectmen Cowan and Seconded by Selectmen Johnson, Sr. to enter executive session regarding a personnel matter at 6:31 pm. Vote 5-0 in favor.

It was moved by Selectmen Hall and seconded by Selectman Johnson, Sr. to come out of executive session at 6:53 pm. Vote 5-0 in favor.

3. New Business: Code Enforcement Officer

Dwayne informed the Board that James Allaire has submitted his letter of resignation as North Berwick Code Enforcement Officer effective July 15, 2016. He has agreed to assist the Town in the transition by working 2.5 days a week for an additional month until August 15, 2016. He will work Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Dwayne explained that Jim has decide to go back to Alfred and be their Code Enforcement Officer. The Town will reimburse the Town of Alfred for these hours as he will be their employee as of July 15, 2016. If we cannot find a replacement by August 15, 2016, the Town of Wells has indicated that they could assist us during the transition if needed.

Dwayne has the job advertisement on our website, Maine Municipal Website, advertised in Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Times and Fosters. Job applications are due by July 15, 2016. Dwayne also sent notice of the job opening to the York and Cumberland County certified CEOs and it has been placed on the Maine CEO website. Dwayne has already received some interest from certified Code Enforcement Officers and is hopeful to find a replacement prior to mid-August.

Selectman Hall and Selectman Johnson, Jr. are on the Labor Committee and once resumes are received, Dwayne will send them to them with a recommendation for interviews.

The Board members expressed their disappointment in Jim's decision as did Dwayne. Dwayne is hopeful that we will be able to fill the position and retain that individual.

4. Other Business:

Stub Marsh Road: Dwayne informed the Board that the Site Walk has been established for Wednesday July 27, 2016 at 10:00 am to view Stub Marsh Road. Dwayne has been in contact with Maine DEP and IF&W and they will have a representative present so that all parties hear first hand their concerns or position on the issue. In addition, Dwayne has notified the neighbors who have expressed an interest on the issue so that they are aware of the site walk meeting.

Selectman Cowan recommended that the Board meets at 9:30 am at the Town Hall and then travels to the site walk together.

The Board requested that Dwayne send out a copy of the Town Attorney's opinion on the matter so that they can refresh their memory on the position of legal counsel. Dwayne will send out the information after he returns from vacation.

Dwayne stated that the Board has this issue scheduled for the August 9, 2016 meeting for discussion.

Tax Rate: Dwayne stated that Craig has finished the draft valuation for the ensuing year and it appears that the new valuation will allow the Town to hold the tax rate from last year. This will lead to a tax reduction of \$63.00 on most residential property as the homestead exemption has increased from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00.

Dwayne stated that originally we were looking at a \$0.30 increase in the tax rate based on the increase of the school budget and Dwayne had thought that the increase would be in the \$0.15 range. With the new valuation specifically from Pratt, CMP and Hannaford along with other personal property accounts and new residential construction values, it appears that the Town will be able to hold the tax rate and have an overlay around \$250,00.00 or a 3% overlay. The overlay will allow the town to temper any future increases.

Craig will be finalizing the valuations in the coming month and Dwayne hopes to have a draft tax rate form for the Board to review either the meeting in July or the first meeting in August. The Board is scheduled to set the tax rate at their August 23, 2016 meeting.

Corner of Route 9/4: Wendy informed the Board that the property on the corner of 9 & 4 has had the price reduced and the Town should consider purchasing the property and removing it in and effort to beautify that corner. Dwayne will check on the current price and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

5. Adjournment:

Selectman Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0.

Respectively Submitted,
Dwayne G. Morin
Town Manager

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.