

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes March 7, 2017

NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES MARCH 7, 2017

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, David Bentley, Lindell Quint, Gregg Drew, Maurice Dolbec, Julie Fernee, Malcolm Hilton, Pat McLaughlin, Reggie Toussaint, Jr.

Chairman Galemmo opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Review and Approve Minutes of February 21, 2017

Dwayne Morin stated that on Page 5, in the fourth sentence of the second paragraph under Other Business, he changed the word "ones" to "boards".

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of February 21, 2017 as amended. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

3. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Budget FY18: Discussion on Budget for FY18

Dwayne stated that the Budget Committee has finished their deliberations with the budget and he will review it with the Selectmen later. He stated that, at the last meeting, the Selectmen had asked Dwayne to invite the Budget Committee to come to a meeting to discuss the Committee Appreciation Dinner Article that is on the Warrant. Some of the Budget Committee members are present tonight.

Chairman Galemmo stated that he feels the dinner is a nice way to show appreciation for the people that do a lot for this town. For example, the Fire Department volunteers take personal time to go through training, show up every week to maintain the trucks and equipment and are willing to go out any time of night to save houses and lives. He stated that \$4,000 for the Appreciation Dinner comes out to about \$.80 per person in town. It is just a thank you for what they do for the town. Chairman Galemmo stated that he was a little surprised that it didn't pass.

Gregg Drew stated that he was one of the people that voted for it not to pass. He stated that he feels that a volunteer dedicates their time to the community and a true volunteer does not get

paid for it. The Fire Department gets paid for the calls and they choose to volunteer. Mr. Drew stated that regarding the Committees that don't get paid, he feels that the volunteers do it because they want to help in their community. He personally does not want to have money spent on a dinner. He said that he thinks that it would be neat if his children and grandchildren would see a plaque that shows how the years of service on a committee were appreciated. He said that you eat food and it's gone but something like a pin or plaque is more important for people than to socialize for an evening.

Pat McLaughlin stated that he voted against it as well for similar reasons. He stated that he volunteers quite a bit and he feels good about what he does and he does it for the right reasons. He believes that most people who volunteer in this town do it for the same reason. People want to contribute and give something back. He doesn't expect to be rewarded. Mr. McLaughlin told the Selectmen that he feels that their intentions are good and he appreciates that but he feels that it is unnecessary and not a good way to spend the town's money. He said that they could get a lot of certificates or pins for a lot less money.

Mr. McLaughlin also wanted to know who made the guest list and decides who is allowed to come. He stated that some people volunteer and will probably not be invited. He doesn't want someone left out and make them not feel good about the work that they do.

David Bentley stated that he voted for it. He stated that there are about 125 people that are on these committees. People don't have to go if they don't want to but it would be nice to offer it for those that would like to attend.

Reggie Toussaint, Jr. stated that several times over the 40 years that he has lived in this town, he has gone up and down his street and has picked up trash. Last year was the first year that he ever saw anyone else come down the street and pick up trash. He stated that he thanked them for their help. He has also seen somebody throw some trash and has confronted them about it. He stated that there are no signs about littering anywhere in town. He feels that money would be better spent on something like that. Mr. Toussaint, Jr. also stated that he volunteered at the baseball field for many years and he did this because he wanted to. He is on the Budget Committee because he wants to be. He doesn't want anything back. He is all for having some kind of town day right here in the parking lot. They could have a barbecue with hot dogs and hamburgers. He stated that the Little League puts on an ice cream social to thank the coaches. He stated that many years ago, they used to do the dinner with a budget of \$500 and now it is \$4,000. He feels that it is an expense that is just going to keep growing. He stated that Dwayne and the Selectmen do a great job in the town to keep the taxes down. He stated that he appreciates all of the volunteers but he doesn't think that this is the way to thank them.

Julie Fernee stated that she voted for it but she now feels badly about it. She stated that she enjoyed attending the dinners that they had in the past. She did not realize that it cost that much. She now feels that they probably shouldn't go forward with the dinner.

Chairman Galemmo stated that it is open to all of the Town committees. Gregg Drew stated that they could recognize these people somehow at the Mill Field Festival. He feels that too many people get left out that are truly volunteers.

Chairman Galemmo stated that the idea of a barbecue sounds pretty good. Pat McLaughlin stated that if they do something like that, it should be open to anybody that volunteers in town and not just Town committees. He stated that he still feels that this is not really necessary either. Most people that volunteer do not expect anything for it. Chairman Galemmo agreed that people do volunteer because they want to be involved but he feels that it is nice to give them some kind of reward for all of their work. Selectman Cowan stated that she likes the idea of a barbecue and likes the idea of having it at the Town Hall instead of the Community Center because this is sort of a focal point for the town. It would be a great opportunity for people to get together within the community.

Selectman Hall stated that we are a diverse town and people see things differently. He feels that sitting down and eating together lets people get to know each other better. This makes for a stronger and closer community. It doesn't matter if it is a barbecue or a more formal dinner but he likes the idea of getting to know other people in town.

Gregg Drew stated that there are a lot of committees that come and go and the ones that go are not recognized at Town Meeting. He stated that they recognize new people voted in. He said that they should take time at the Town Meeting and recognize those that are on Boards and Committees.

Chairman Galemmo stated that it is a chance for the people that work on the committees to get together and talk outside of the committee meetings. He feels that it can make the committees a little stronger and more cohesive.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked if it is possible to get donations from businesses to pay for this. Dwayne stated that the Board could definitely solicit businesses for a donation.

Chairman Galemmo said that he was willing to table it this year and look into doing something for the following year. They could take the time to look into different options.

Dwayne told the Selectmen that he had a spreadsheet of the Budget included in packet. He said that the end result was an increase of about 4% in the budget. There was a 2.78% increase in Operations and about an 11% increase in Capital. It is a budget increase of about \$170,000 and a tax increase of about \$145,000. However, we are utilizing \$90,000 of excess overlay so it is actually only \$64,000 in money. We are anticipating \$189,000 in new money so this leaves a good amount of money to help with whatever will happen with the school budget.

Dwayne stated that the Winter Highway budget is quickly eroding. However, this is one of the accounts that we can overspend on. We still have about \$35,000 currently in the budget.

Dwayne stated that there was a mistake on the spreadsheets that he gave the Board as it relates to salaries. He is trying to keep equity among the department heads. When he did the budget for the Transfer Station, he had some of the employees at a higher amount than what they were because they just moved up so they don't go to the highest category. He did notice that Richard would have been the lowest paid department head and he wanted to keep him in the same range.

Dwayne stated that he is able to do this within the same budgetary structure because he had made a mistake with the other salaries.

5. New Business:

A. Town Meeting FY18: Review and Establish Warrants

Dwayne stated that he included the Warrant in the packet. It is laid out the same way it has been in the past. The only things that have changed since the Selectmen last saw it is that they have added the Budget Committee recommendations. They have whittled down some of the numbers because they had some higher numbers in some places. Dwayne stated that the Selectmen need to decide if they are going to keep the Committee Appreciation in the Warrant. If not, then he will need to renumber the Warrant. He stated that Article 26 is the one for the Committee Appreciation.

Selectman Cowan motioned to remove Article 26 from the Warrant. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion.

Selectman Hall stated that he definitely feels that they should look into doing something for next year. Selectman Cowan stated that she also likes the idea of giving pins to the volunteers.

VOTE: 5-0

Chairman Galemmo stated that they now had to vote on the rest of the Articles.

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Articles for the Warrant as amended. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

B. Foreclosed Properties: FY15 Tax Year

Dwayne stated that they do foreclosures every year and they usually do it at the beginning of March. They typically do it for 2 years from when they committed taxes. This year, for our FY15, they had one property. The property is for Malcolm Hilton. Dwayne stated that they realized today that Mr. Hilton has a mortgage on his property it was somehow removed from our system so we didn't notify his bank. We now have to extend the time frame out for 30 additional days to allow the bank the ability to claim and pay the taxes. Dwayne stated that Mr. Hilton is willing to enter into a payment arrangement with the town if the bank does not cover them.

4. Unfinished Business:

B. Project Canopy: Grant Application Update

Dwayne stated that they still have not heard from Project Canopy. They are just waiting on their Administration to award the grants.

C. Boston Post Cane: New Recipient – Mary Steeves

Dwayne stated that they were supposed to have the ceremony last Saturday. However most of the people that were going to it were sick so they postponed it. The family would like to do it either this Saturday or the following Saturday. They decided to do it on March 18th at 10:00. Dwayne stated that he will not be there but he will have everything ready for the Selectmen.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting – March 21, 2017 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

6. Other Business:

Dwayne stated that he included the draft newsletter in their packet. He is sending it out to the printer next week. The Town Report is being sent to the printer tomorrow.

Dwayne stated that the State has received applications from 2 businesses in town to have a liquor license. He has included the letter from the State in their packet. The 2 businesses are Cumberland Farms and Hannaford Supermarket. The State will be having a Public Hearing regarding these requests on March 24th at 1:00 pm.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	February 28, 2017	- \$	0.00
Warrant:	March 7, 2017	- \$	65,953.84

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of March 7, 2017 for the amount of \$65,953.84. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Respectively Submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Charles Galemmo

Selectman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.