

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes March 21, 2017

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES MARCH 21,
2017**

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Stephen Peasley

Chairman Galemmo opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Review and Approve Minutes of March 7, 2017

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of March 7, 2017 as written. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

4. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

5. Unfinished Business:

A. Project Canopy: Grant Application Update

Dwayne Morin stated that they had received a letter stating that they have been approved for the Project Canopy grant. He stated that he has spoken with Sofie Larsen and they believe it would be a good idea for the Conservation & Agricultural Commission and the Selectmen to get together to talk about moving forward with the Maine Community Foundation. Dwayne stated that the initial thought was to use it for the bridges, trail improvements and parking lots. He believes that it would be a good idea to get everyone together to talk it through. The Board all agreed to invite the Conservation & Agricultural Commission and representatives from the Great Works Land Trust to the April 4th meeting.

B. Boston Post Cane: New Recipient – Mary Steves

Dwayne stated that the Selectmen went over and presented the cane to Mary Steves. It was a very nice ceremony.

2. Public Hearing – 6:35 pm – Town Meeting Referendum Questions

Chairman Galemmo read the Legal Notice into the minutes:

Legal Notice

TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK

Public Hearing

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 6:35 PM

Municipal Building Conference Room #212

Referendum Questions for 2017 Annual Town Meeting

The North Berwick Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 6:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Conference Room #212 pursuant to 30-A MRSA 4352 (9) on the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment referendum questions proposed for the 2017 Annual Town Meeting. The three referendum questions to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting are:

Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Adding a new Section 5.2.22 and Amending Sections 3.2 Definitions and 4.3 Land Use Table of the Zoning Ordinance to allow domesticated chickens in all zones, except the shoreland zones, provided that certain performance standards are met” be enacted?

Question #2: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 6.1.7 and deleting the definition of a Category 3 survey under Section 3.2 of the Zoning Ordinance thereby amending building permit approval for buildings with foundation into two part; first part a foundation permit and second part a building permit for the structure itself once certification from surveyor is provided showing all setback requirements have been met” be enacted?

Question #3: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 5.2, 6.3, 7.2 and 8.2 of the Subdivision Ordinance to require the submission of a digital copy of a proposed subdivision plan along with the required paper copies” be enacted?

Copies of the proposed amendment language can be viewed in the Town Clerk’s Office during regular scheduled hours or on the Town’s website: townofnorthberwick.org

The Board of Selectmen encourages all interested persons to attend this Public Hearing.

Dwayne explained each of the questions. Question #1 is to allow chickens. The Conservation and Agricultural Commission presented this proposal to allow 6 chickens per 40,000 sf as long as all of the conditions are met. Question #2 breaks our building permit process into 2 parts. One for a foundation permit and one for a building permit once the supply a plan to the Code Enforcement Officer showing that all setbacks have been met. Question #3 just adds digital copies to all the submissions for a subdivision.

Chairman Galemmo closed the Public Hearing at 6:38 pm.

5. Unfinished Business:

C. Budget: SAD 60 Budget Implications

Dwayne stated that he had a visit from the Superintendent today. He wanted to let Dwayne know what to expect from SAD 60's budget that he is proposing to the School Board. He will be proposing a budget that eliminates \$2.2 million worth of funding off of the school budget. Even with the \$2.2 million reduction, it will still represent a 4% increase in the school budget which will affect some positions and a lot of cuts. Dwayne stated that his main concern is the affect it will have on the town of North Berwick. Two of the proposals being brought up are eliminating the SRO officer at the high school and moving the SAD 60 offices out of this building. Dwayne stated that we derive 50% of the costs to run this building from SAD 60. If they move out, we will need to come up with about \$50,000. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked how much of a decrease in usage it would be. Dwayne said that he can save some of the cost by shutting off the 3rd floor. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked if we could use it for something else. Dwayne stated that he was not sure what else they could use it for.

Dwayne stated that his thoughts were to close off the 3rd floor. They would shut off the water to the bathrooms, shut off the water to the cooler and keeping the heat to about 45° during the winter time and capping it off to about 85° during the summer time. On the 2nd floor, they would lower the temperature in the Special Education and Food Service offices. They would reduce the janitorial services from 32 hours per week to 15 hours per week. He also believes he can reduce the electricity costs by about 1/3, the heating costs by about 1/3 and the labor costs by about \$5,000 to \$10,000. By doing this, he could save about \$19,000 to \$20,000. Selectman Cowan asked what they net impact on the town would be. Dwayne thinks that he can keep it between \$10,000 and \$20,000.

Dwayne stated that he is opposed to the removal of the SRO officer at the high school. The Superintendent is proposing to eliminate the SRO at the High School and have the Berwick SRO from the Middle School cover both the Middle School and the High School. Dwayne stated that it is not a personal issue towards our town but it is all about the numbers. Dwayne said that our SRO officer will most likely be retiring this year and the Superintendent is looking to try and not have anybody laid off so he was looking at having the Berwick SRO cover both. Dwayne stated that he doubts that the one SRO could cover both schools.

Dwayne stated that he and Chief Peasley met with the Superintendent today and told him some of their concerns. They told him that they do not know why they need an SRO officer at the Middle School for 11 and 12 year olds. There is definitely more of a need for an SRO officer in a school with 13 to 18 year olds. He stated that our Police Department is charged with protecting our community and that school is within our community. Allowing a Berwick Police Officer to spend 70% to 90% of their time in our community, is not to our advantage. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked if there are any jurisdictional issues involved. Chief Stephen Peasley stated that the Berwick officer could be sworn in as a deputy. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked Selectman Hall, who works at the Middle School, if he has seen a lot of dangerous things happening there.

Selectman Hall stated that there were some incidents but there are a lot more issues at the High School.

Dwayne stated that the other concern is that the numbers for the things that happen at the High School such as thefts, assists us when we go out for grants. If Berwick is now covering those issues, that would have a detrimental effect on the town. Selectman Cowan stated that her big concern is with the drug issue. There are so many interactions taking place in the parking lots and she feels that this alone is almost a full time job. Dwayne stated that they believe that if the Berwick officer is only there on a part time basis, we will have our full time patrol officers there a whole lot more. This will have a negative impact on our budget. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how much they pay our SRO officer for being there. Dwayne stated that it is about \$60,000 per year.

Selectman Cowan asked if we had started making plans for a replacement for our SRO officer in the event of his retiring. Chief Peasley stated that he has one officer that is very interested. He has been to the SRO schools and is certified as an SRO officer. They have also been grooming one of the Reserve Officer to take over for this officer. Selectman Cowan asked if the Superintendent was aware of these plans. Chief Peasley stated that he did not know until today when they spoke about it. Selectman Cowan asked what the Superintendent thought after hearing some of Dwayne and the Chief's concerns. Dwayne stated that he would take them into consideration.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked if there was a way that the SRO officer's hours could be changed to be part of his time at the high school and part of it on patrol. Dwayne stated that this would not solve the problem of needing a full time SRO at the high school. If we did have the SRO part time patrol, he would just be spending his time at the high school anyway. Dwayne said that last year, we did 800 calls at the high school. We had 6,000 calls town wide and about 800 were at the high school. The Superintendent told Dwayne that he would like to keep it the same and have both SRO positions, but unfortunately it all comes down to the numbers. Selectman Cowan stated that this cut is a direct result of what is happening at the State level. It will have a tremendous negative impact on communities all across the State.

Selectman Hall asked how many positions were being cut from the Central Office staff. Dwayne stated that he wasn't sure. He thought that it was 20 teachers and at least 3 positions from Central Office going away. Selectman Hall asked if the Central Office positions were going to be secretaries or Administration positions such as Assistant Superintendents. Dwayne said that he did not know.

Selectman Hall asked what exactly our options were in regards to the SRO officer. Dwayne stated that he has been talking with Chief Peasley and there are not very many options. He stated that the Superintendent's proposal is to allow the Berwick SRO officer to come in and we could say "no" to this. Selectman Cowan said that it is a jurisdictional issue in terms of location of the school. It is in our community, so we have more of a vested interest and more of a concern with potential impact on our town if something serious happens. Dwayne stated that this is one of the issues that Chief Peasley brought up. What would happen if there was an active shooting at the school or some other major incident? It is our responsibility to respond and this makes it

difficult when you don't have any eyes in the school. Chief Peasley also stated that what happens if they put this Berwick officer in as SRO and a year or so down the road, he quits. Will they then put another Berwick officer to put in that position? Dwayne said that we have more stability here regarding this. Selectman Cowan stated we have more at stake here but yet we don't have jurisdiction over that particular SRO officer from a whole different department. She is not saying anything negative about the other town's department but feels that because the school is in our town it should be one of our officers. Selectman Hall stated that he would basically be a North Berwick officer because he would be at the high school at least 90% of the time. Chief Peasley said that another concern is that the SRO officer would be communicating back to his administration and we will be left in the dark.

Dwayne told the Superintendent that we would rather that the North Berwick SRO be funded instead of the Berwick one. The Superintendent's concern was that a Berwick officer would be laid off but Dwayne stated that Berwick is adding another patrol officer to their staff this year through their budget process. The current SRO officer could slide into the patrol position and not be laid off. Selectman Johnson, Jr. said that it would make more sense for the Berwick officers to do a couple of drive by's at the Middle School instead of having someone there full time.

Dwayne stated that the Superintendent is supposed to propose more of a finalized budget to the School Board this Thursday. If he doesn't change anything than we need to make sure that our voice is heard during the Budget Hearing process. Chairman Glemmo stated that he could write up a resolution before the next meeting in anticipation of the worst case scenario. If the Superintendent goes back and decides to fund the North Berwick SRO then we wouldn't need to do anything. If he does not change it, they can sign a resolution to submit to the School Board that states that they are not in support of this with their reasons why they do not agree.

Dwayne stated that he does anticipate that the SAD 60 offices will move out of the building. Selectman Johnson, Jr. stated that they could probably rent the space out to another business. Dwayne doesn't see that happening. He stated that everyone that works in this building is fingerprinted. This is because we have evidence within this building. If a person enters this building, they have free flow within it. They could really only rent it out to something that matches town business and they don't want someone in the building at all hours of the night. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked if the school contributed to any part of the loan on the building. Dwayne stated that they did not. Selectman Cowan asked if we would still be able to negotiate our oil contracts and other things. Dwayne said that we would because we do that with SAD 60 as an area wide thing. Selectman Hall asked when they planned on moving out. Dwayne said that they need to give him a 6 month notice per our contract. The Superintendent told him that as soon as he figures out if they will move out, he will give his notice right away because they have to limit their costs too.

Dwayne stated that if the towns have to pick up another \$2.2 million, our mil rate will definitely go up quite a bit. He stated that our share of \$2.2 million would be about \$800,000 and this would cause our mil rate to increase by about \$1.20. Our current rate is \$12.60 so the new rate would be about \$13.80. The impact to the average tax payer would be a minimum of \$300.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – April 4, 2017 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

6. New Business:

A. Town Meeting FY18: Sign Warrants and Referendum Questions

Dwayne stated that he has a bunch of Warrants for the Selectmen to sign and he needs to have a motion for it.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. motioned for the Selectmen to sign the Warrants for the April 8th Town Meeting. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

B. Town Meeting FY18: Appoint Ballot Clerks

Dwayne stated that there are 3 Ballot Clerks that are being proposed for the Town Meeting. They are Susan Caler, Cynthia Matthews and Kathleen Pease.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve Susan Caler, Cynthia Matthews and Kathleen Pease as Ballot Clerks for the Annual Town Meeting on April 8, 2017. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. Assessing: Sales Analysis Return and State Audit

Dwayne stated that the State has finished their review of our assessing services. This year, they are certifying us at 100% with a quality rating of 7. Last year, we were at 100% with a quality rating of 8 so our quality rating got better. Our goal is to be above 79% and have a quality rating below 20. Chairman Galemno asked if the 100% means that we our assessed value is on par with market. Dwayne said that this was correct. He stated that out of the 96 total sales last year, 40 of them were actually good sales. We had a deviation rate of 17% below and 22% above.

D. Historical Society: Request to Waive Building Permit for Proposed Barn

Dwayne stated that the Historical Society is planning on building a barn on their property on Old County Road. They want to house some farm, ice cutting and wood implements in it. They have raised about \$28,000 of their \$50,000 goal so they would like to start the project. They need to get a building permit. They are asking the Selectmen to waive their building permit so the money can go into the cost of the building.

Selectman Cowan motioned to waive the permit fee for the Historical Society. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0 Abstain: 1

E. Newsletter: Town Meeting Newsletter

Dwayne stated that the printing of the newsletter should be done tomorrow. A copy of the newsletter is included in their packet.

7. Other Business:

There was no other business at this time.

8. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	March 14, 2017	- \$	0.00
Warrant:	March 21, 2017	-	\$550,703.53

Selectman Hall motioned to approve the Warrant of March 21, 2017 for the amount of \$550,703.53. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

9. Adjournment:

Selectman Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. 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.