

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes September 18, 2018

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2018**

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

Absent: Selectman Galemmo

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Stephen Peasley, Scott Theriault, Gladys Theriault, Wendi Daudelin, James Moulton, Nancy Moulton, Lynette Harriman, Therese Morrissey, Lynn Nash, Megan Daudelin, Chad Gerrish, Martin Morrissey, Jonny Koelker, Heather Koelker, Rachel Pelkey, Daniel Pelkey, Matthew Begin, Laura Kirkwood, Robert Kearns, Jennifer Kearns, Patrick Roy, Leo Harriman, Timothy Niehoff, Dustin Niehoff

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Review and Approve Minutes of September 4, 2018

Dwayne Morin stated that he corrected a name. He changed “Kristi” to “Kristie”.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of September 4, 2018 as amended. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

4. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

6. New Business:

D. Private Road: Accept Iron Rock Lane as Private Road Name

Dwayne stated that Justin Dowling is building a house off of Bauneg Beg Hill Road. He is building a private road and he would like to name it Iron Rock Lane.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve Justin Dowling’s request to name their private road Iron Rock Lane. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

2. Public Hearing – 6:35PM – General Assistance Appendices

Chairman Hall read the legal notice for the Public Hearing into the minutes:

Notice of Public Hearing
General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices
September 18, 2018 6:35 P.M.

The North Berwick Board of Selectmen will be holding a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 6:35 p.m. in the Municipal Building Room 212. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to seek input on the revised General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices proposed to replace the existing Ordinance and Appendices. The proposed Ordinance and Appendices were prepared pursuant to the Maine General Assistance Law (22 MRSA § 4305(4)).

The North Berwick Board of Selectmen encourages all interested residents to attend this Public Hearing.

Dwayne stated that, every year, we have to update our General Assistance Appendices based on what the State has printed. He said that there are minor changes this year. There is a change in the overall maximum assistance to \$21.00 per person and a change in what is allowed in apartment costs. These went up about \$7.00 per month.

There was no public comment.

Chairman Hall closed the Public Hearing at 6:36 pm.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. motioned to approve the revised changes of the General Assistance Appendices. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

6. New Business:

A. Police: Chief Peasley Updates, Presentation of Awards to Police Officers

Chief Stephan Peasley stepped forward and gave the Selectmen some updates on the status of the Police Department. He stated that they have one officer, Brian Donohue, at the Police Academy right now. He is in his 5th week and is doing great. He will be back the 3rd week of December. Chief Peasley stated that Officer Dan Pelkey has been injured the past 4 weeks so they have been down 2 full time officers. They have been filling a lot of the shifts with Reserve Officers as best as they can. He stated that they are fortunate because they have 2 Reserve Officers who can work a lot of hours for them. Unfortunately, they are limited to the total number of hours they can work. They are allowed to work 1,040 hours per year and both of the officers are getting close to that mark. Once they work the 1,040 hours, they cannot work anymore until January 1st.

Chief Peasley said that they were fortunate to have hired a new Reserve Officer recently. He introduced Patrick Roy to everyone. He stated that he is full time certified and has been through the full time Police Academy program. He does come to us with some experience. He is

currently working with a second officer right now to get trained. Officer Roy should be able to fill in with some of the open shifts they have soon. Chief Peasley stated that school has started and Jonny Koelker is there as the SRO. He said that Officer Koelker has been pretty busy there.

Chief Peasley stated that there is really nothing new to report. They have been pretty lucky as far as property crimes go so far but other things have been keeping them busy.

Chief Peasley stated that the reason he had all of this officers come to the meeting tonight is to present them with pins. He stated that about 10 years ago, they had one of these presentations before the Board of Selectmen. He said that it is a years of service ceremony and they have pins that correspond to the number of years. He said that he had every intention 10 years ago to keep this updated but it didn't happen. He does now intend to update it every year at their annual department meeting. He said that they have a lot of seniority and experience in the department and he thought it would be nice for the Board of Selectmen to actually see the officers. Of the 16 sworn officers, there are 12 that are getting service pins.

Chief Peasley said that he formed a Committee and they standardized their years of service pins. He stated each one of the pins and their colors actually have meaning to them. They now have them documented and will use these from here on out. They will give them out for every 5 years completed. If somebody has 12 years they will received a 10 year pin or if they have 7 years, they will receive a 5 year pin. When they reach the next 5 year milestone, they will get a new one.

Chief Peasley stated that they will start with the 5 year pin. The first pin is going to somebody that is a former US Marine and worked for about 14 years with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department. He has been with us for 6 years. His works full time at Pratt & Whitney as a Supervisor. Chief Peasley stated that he works mostly midnight shifts on the weekends. He called Scott Theriault up to get his 5 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the next person has been with the department for 7 years. He is head of Security at Pratt & Whitney. He used to be a full time police officer with the town of Lebanon. He is the liaison between the Police Department and Pratt & Whitney. He provides the department with a lot of information and has helped a lot with numerous grants. Whenever they need someone they can call him and he will come out and give them a hand. He called Chad Gerrish up to get his 5 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the next person is not present tonight because he lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. Keith Page is a Reserve Officer with the Department and has been with them for 9 years. About 4 or 5 years ago, Mr. Page came to Chief Peasley and said that he had been offered a great job in North Carolina and was going to move there. However, he really wanted to continue to work as a Police Officer because he didn't want to give up his certification in Maine. He still has family up her so he told Chief Peasley that he would be up here every major holiday and periodically throughout the year. He would fill in for some of the shifts while he was in town. There have been a few instances where he flew up here, worked for us and then flew right back.

Chief Peasley went on to present the 10 year pins. The first pin is going to somebody that has been with the department for 10 years. He has done an excellent job for the department. He is the Child Safety Seat expert and is our School Resource Officer. He became the SRO last year to take over for Rick Varney after he retired. Chief Peasley said that last year was one of the busiest years at the school and he has handled everything great for his first year. He relates well with the staff and the students at the school. He called up Jonny Koelker to get his 10 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the next person has been with the department for 11 years. Prior to working for us, he worked for Ogunquit Police Department for a couple of years. He has several certifications with the department. He is one of their Firearms Instructor and their Taser instructor. He is also on the York County Special Response Team, which is made up of officers from several departments throughout York County. Having the Instructor certifications is great. Chief Peasley stated that they have to be certified in all of these things every year so if he wasn't certified, they would have to go outside the department to find someone and would have to pay them. He also recently took on a big project when they updated their side arms. It was a long process but everyone likes the decision that he made. Chief Peasley stated that everyone's scores went up with the new firearms. He called up Matthew Begin to get his 10 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the next person also has 11 years on the force. He started out as a Reserve Officer then moved on to full time officer. He also has a few certifications. He is our K-9 Officer. He is also our Drug Recognition Expert which is very helpful for us. There is only a handful of them in York County. If we have an impaired person, it is very valuable to have someone who can help identify what the person is on. He is always willing to step up and help out. He called up Dan Pelkey to get his 10 year pin.

Chief Peasley moved on to present the 15 year pins. The first pin is for our Senior Patrol Officer who has been on the force for 15 years. He does an excellent job. Chief Peasley said that he knows that if this person goes out on a call, it will be investigated thoroughly. He has a great interest in computers and helps out when something goes wrong with their computers. He has also stepped up to work these open shifts. He called up Timothy Niehoff to get his 15 year pin.

Chief Peasley said that the next person does not wear a uniform so he couldn't give her a pin. She has been with the department for 18 years. She is the secretary and Crossing Guard but she does so much more. She helps out with DARE. She started the Bike to School Day that they do every spring with the elementary school kids which has become very popular. They started with about 80 people participating and they now have over 200 participants. Her hours are 8:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday but she is usually in at 6:30 every morning. She is very dedicated, willing to help out and is a valuable asset to the department. He called up Wendi Daudelin to get her 15 year bracelet.

Chief Peasley stated that the next presentation is for the 25 year pin. This person has 29 years on the force and today is his anniversary date. He is the Lieutenant and the detective. He fills in on patrol whenever needed and wears many hats. Chief Peasley stated that their Uniform Crime Reporting, which is the stats that they send to the FBI, have never been better. Their clearance rates have been the best. He called up Jim Moulton to get his 25 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the next presentation is for the 30 year pin. This person has 32 years of service. He is the Sargent and Night Time Supervisor. He is also one of their computer people so when they have computer issues they go to him first. He is the Field Training Officer and is a wealth of knowledge. Chief Peasley said that this person is the reason that he came to work at North Berwick. He called Robert Kearns up to get his 30 year pin.

Chief Peasley went on to present the 35 year pin. This person is the other Firearms Instructor. He is a retired Lieutenant but he is back part time and manages our court work and training files. Chief Peasley stated that his experience and input on things is very valuable to them. He is constantly running to court with affidavits for search warrants or arrest warrants. It saves the department a lot of money in overtime because they don't have to send the individual officers on a regular basis. He called up Leo Harriman to get his 35 year pin.

Chief Peasley stated that the last pin is for 40 years of service. This person was a full time officer with the department for a while. He went through the academy when he was in his 40's which is not an easy thing to do. Chief Peasley said that if everyone had the work ethic that this person has, the world would be a better place. Whenever they have an open shift, they call him and he comes out to help. He works a lot of midnight shifts. He called up Martin Morrissey to get his 40 year pin.

Someone asked Chief Peasley how many years that he had been with the department. He said it had been 32 years for him. Chief Peasley stated that, in this day and age, it is very hard to keep people so he feels fortunate to have kept our people.

The Board of Selectmen thanked them for their service and dedication and many years of service.

5. Unfinished Business:

A. Public Works: Project Updates

Dwayne stated that they started Bauneg Beg Hill Road last week. They got most of the ditching and all of the granite smashed up. They got the large culvert installed yesterday and they have about another week's worth of ditching before they pave it. Yesterday they paved Diamond Hill Road. They were supposed to pave Quarry Road today but it has been pushed back to tomorrow due to the weather. Dwayne said that he looking at being about \$5,000 over budget with the roads. The price of pavement increased so that is the main reason for being over. We have an escalation clause and asphalt went through the roof this year so we have been paying an extra \$5.00 per ton. Dwayne said that they might not pave all of Bauneg Beg Hill Road this year since it is a 2 year project. Once they get Quarry Road paved, he will know more where he is at with the numbers and have a better idea as to where they stand with the budget.

B. Parks and Rec: Guptill Field Improvements, Noble Travel Soccer

Dwayne stated that the Parks and Rec did approve the field improvements on the baseball field. They should be starting to work on it within the next week or so. They will spend about \$12,000 for a grass infield.

Dwayne stated that they met with Noble Travel Soccer. One of the things that we were unaware of is that the organization Soccer Maine has changed some of the rules this year. They used to play all of the games on Sunday. Now Soccer Maine is telling them that they need to also play some games on Saturday. We don't have room for them on Saturdays. He said there is only about 3 ladies running the program. Dwayne stated that there was definitely some miscommunication on both sides but hopefully they have solved that issue. We were able to give them a couple extra options. When the Fire Department has Bingo on Saturday, we can't rent the facility so we told Travel Soccer that they could play their games until 4:00. This will give them 2 Saturdays a month that they can play on our fields. They will now have to go to Soccer Maine and tell them when they have the field available.

Dwayne stated that one of the comments that was made was that they wanted to use the fields whenever they want to use them. He told them that they are the Town's fields and our programs will always win out. Selectman Cowan said that it is our taxpayers that pay for those fields and first priority is to our people. She hopes that they understand this now. Dwayne said that they have heard us but he doesn't think that they will be here next year. They should be all set for this year's games.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – Oct. 2, 2018 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

6. New Business:

B. Commitment FY19: Abatements and Supplementals

Dwayne stated that they had one Abatement and one Supplemental to review tonight. The Abatement is a Homestead Exemption that was not keyed into the computer for Paul & Cedar Lukacs at 83 Elm Street. The Abatement is for \$258.00.

Selectman Cowan motioned to accept the Abatement for Paul & Cedar Lukacs for \$258.00. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Dwayne stated that the Supplemental is for a Tree Growth penalty. David Peterson came in and said that his property has been in Tree Growth but he would like to take it out of Tree Growth. It is a voluntary withdrawal. The amount is for \$1,828.00. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how long the property had been in Tree Growth. Dwayne said that it has been over 20 years so he only has a 20% tax penalty.

Selectman Johnson, Jr. motioned to accept the withdrawal from the Tree Growth program for David Peterson for the amount of \$1,828.00. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

C. Dispatch: New Contract Proposal from Sanford Regional Communications

Dwayne stated that they have had a really good deal with the Town of Sanford for a long time now. Sanford Regional Dispatch is now standardizing their dispatch rates. The full service towns are Kennebunk, Sanford, South Berwick, Berwick and North Berwick. This means that they handle calls for Police, Fire and Rescue. Dwayne stated that the argument that we had made successfully in previous contracts is that we only have volunteer Fire and had volunteer Rescue at the time of the contract. They figured out what the full value was and because we had volunteer Fire and Rescue, they would give us a deduction. Dwayne said that it doesn't matter whether you have volunteer Fire and Rescue because the number of calls is the same. Dwayne stated that he knew what Berwick and South Berwick just signed their contracts for and he knew that ours was going to go up.

Dwayne stated that right now we pay \$18.18 per capita for our dispatch costs which is about \$94,000.00. The full value is \$30.05 per capita which is about \$140,000.00. They are proposing a 10 year contract and they would allow us to creep up to the \$30.05 amount in the first 5 years of the contract. It would be about an \$11,000.00 increase to the town for the first 5 years. We would then be in line with what they are charging everybody else and it would just be based on the CPI after that.

Chairman Hall asked if we had any other options. Dwayne said that they did have options but they are not very good options. He said that there are 3 other dispatch centers that we could look at. They are Wells, York and Biddeford. There some difficulties with them. The difficulty with York is that we can't get our signal to them because of Mt. Agamenticus. We would have to do some equipment upgrades and have an intermediate tower somewhere outside out of our town. The problem with Wells is that it is a small dispatch center. All they do is dispatch for Wells and Ogunquit but Lebanon is talking with Wells about going there. Wells has 2 dispatchers on during the day and 1 at night. If we moved there, he doesn't know if they could handle us.

Dwayne stated that the other problem no matter where we go is that we share our Fire and Rescue frequencies with 5 other towns. If those towns don't move with us then we would need to go get some frequencies. He stated that we do own some frequencies, however we have never repeated them or put up towers. Putting up towers is very expensive. They cost about \$150,000.00 per tower. We would also need to find a place to put it. He said that we have an antenna on our water tower. However, we have Bauneg Beg Hill and it causes significant interference when we get on the back side of it and when we get on the back side of Abbott Hill and Windy Hill on the Lebanon side.

Dwayne said that the other option is Biddeford. He said that we can see Biddeford's antenna so it would probably work. However, if the other towns don't move with us it will cost us a lot of money. Our equipment costs would sky rocket. Dwayne said that the reason they went to Sanford was that the equipment costs were significantly lower than the other places. The equipment costs for us were about \$100,000.00 to get to Sanford.

Dwayne stated that the Chiefs are all very happy with the service that we are getting. He stated that if they went to Wells, we would still have to pay for our PSAP which is 911. If you hit 911 and you are a North Berwick resident it goes into a PSAP Center. If your Center is not your Dispatch Center, then the call would need to be transferred to your Center. For example, if you call 911 and your Dispatch Center is Wells, your call would go to Sanford and they would then transfer it to Wells. Sanford would charge us about \$30,000.00 per year to do this.

Selectman Cowan stated that Sanford has provided us with reliable service. She said that we want to be concerned with costs but we need to be concerned with quality as well. Dwayne stated that one of the reasons that South Berwick closed their Dispatch Center is because of the new requirements that are coming out. They will now require that all Dispatchers will need to be medically qualified which will cost a lot more money for training.

Dwayne stated that Sanford has been very honest and up front with us. They showed him all of our calls and what the costs are. The last contract that we signed, Dwayne had told them that they should structure the contract differently. He had told them that they should go with a straight percentage increase. He knew that over time, the disparities would become greater. He said that for the past 3 years, our costs have not gone up because the CIP has been either negative or 1 so the costs to the towns have been miniscule. When we started back in 2010, we were paying them \$64,400.00. This year we are at \$83,200.00. In 10 years, we have gone up less than \$20,000.00. Dwayne said that he was a little surprised at first at the \$30.05 final number. However he looked at what Eliot pays York and they are paying about \$125,000.00 per year.

Dwayne said that he could try to see if they could extend it to beyond 5 years but he believes that the 5 years will be the max. He is happy though about the 10 year contract. Chairman Hall asked what the amount will be after the 5 years is up. Dwayne said that it will be based on what the CPI will be on a yearly basis. They will set the CPI year to year from September to September. Dwayne stated that Sanford does not want to lose us but they also can't afford to keep us at the rate that we were paying. Dwayne said that Sanford is also doing it with their volunteer Fire and EMS towns that don't have Police services. They are raising their rates from \$8.30 to 10.50. However the Sheriff's costs are going up to \$26.50 so if you add the 2 numbers together, they are paying about \$37.00. Dwayne said that that is not exactly correct though because all of the other towns help to pay the Sherriff's costs. Dwayne is hoping to get a contract signed by the end of the year. He said that we can absorb the \$11,000.00 increase.

Dwayne stated that Sanford does not want to grow any more. Berwick and South Berwick will be their last full service towns that they take on. If Lebanon leaves, they want to pick up Limington. Limington is currently being dispatched by the State which is not good. The State has closed down almost all of their Dispatch Centers. Right now, they only have Auburn, Augusta and Houlton open and Augusta is down about 8 Dispatchers. If Limington moves to Sanford, this will fit in good for us. Limington can start sharing our channels because we have all of the infrastructure in place. We have 7 towers that the consortium owns and manages and we can offer them to Limington.

Selectman Cowan asked when this would happen. Dwayne said that Lebanon is looking to leave around July of next year because they are unhappy. Chairman Hall asked what they were

unhappy about. Dwayne believes that they are asking for too much. Lebanon has gone through a lot of Chiefs and a lot of personnel within their Fire and Rescue squad. The current Chief is a full time Firefighter in Rochester and they have their own dispatch channel. Rochester is a big city compared to Lebanon so the services are going to be different. They want all of their communication, regardless of who is talking on the radio, to be recorded. They also want a dedicated dispatcher just for them. Sanford told them that they would be more than willing to do that but a full time Dispatcher and computer costs would be about \$335,000.00 per year. Lebanon stated that they could not pay that.

Another thing that Lebanon wants is for all of their fire stuff to be heard. With most towns, when a call is dispatched, a communications post is set up. That person is the only person that talks to dispatch. None of the Firefighters or EMS people talk to dispatch. Only the Communications Officer talks to dispatch. Lebanon wants everybody to talk to dispatch. Dwayne said that when a communications post is set up, that person talks to dispatch. They then flip all the communications that is going on the scene to what is called an Operations or Tact channel. The Communications Officer is listening to our chatter at everything that is going on at the scene and is communicating to dispatch if we need additional resources. Lebanon wants everyone to talk. For example, if their Firefighter is running out of air, they want dispatch to know that. This is not the dispatch's job to know this. It is the Communications Officer's job to know it so he can monitor everything. Sanford does not want to listen to our Tact channels. They have 11 communities that they dispatch for so they do not have time to listen to all of our channels. All they are supposed to be doing is to dispatch and tell people to go somewhere. Lebanon is concerned that it is a safety issue but Dwayne disagrees with that. Also it would completely tie that channel up.

Dwayne said that we share channels with other towns so if we get called to a scene, we go to a Tact channel. Within our group of channels that we own, we have some Tact channels so the towns in our group can hear it but Sanford Dispatch does not hear everything that is going on. We also own additional channels that we use for additional operations. We do this because some people are on high band and some are on low band so it depends on who is at the scene. We have the additional channels so that if a New Hampshire town comes out to us, we can talk to them.

7. Other Business:

Dwayne stated that the Planning Board has been very busy. They have approved 3 subdivisions in the past month or so. There is a Medical Marijuana counseling service that is relocated and they are creating a retail store. There is another one that is also coming up for review. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how all of these marijuana places were being approved. Dwayne said that they are counseling offices and they have a retail store on the front that will sell their bong, pipes and other stuff. Dwayne said that the lines are going to blur really quickly when recreational comes in play. He stated that if you have a medical retail store you have a marijuana store. To say that it can only be used for medical marijuana, it will be very hard to police it.

8. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	September 11, 2018	- \$ 14,476.81
Warrant:	September 18, 2018	- \$ 845,505.87

Selectman Johnson, Jr. motioned to approve the Warrant of September 11, 2018 for the amount of \$14,476.81 and the Warrant of September 18, 2018 for the amount of \$845,505.87. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

7. Other Business – Executive Session – Personnel Issue

Selectman Cowan motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:20 pm and come out of Executive Session at 8:30 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

9. Adjournment:

Selectman Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0

Respectively Submitted,
Susan Niehoff, Stenographer

Original to Town Clerk

Chairman: Jonathan Hall

Selectman: Wendy Cowan

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Jr.

Selectman: Charles Glemmo

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.