

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes September 4, 2018

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin

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

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Review and Approve Minutes of August 21, 2018**

Selectman Glemmo motioned to approve the minutes of August 21, 2018. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 4-0 Abstain: 1

3. Public Input

There was no public input at this time.

4. Unfinished Business:

A. Public Works: Project Update

Dwayne stated that all of the work has been completed for the walking trails. Now they just need to brush out the walking trails. Dwayne stated that he hopes that the Conservation and Agricultural Commission will make some decisions regarding this soon.

Dwayne stated that they will shim Quarry Road tomorrow and overlay it in a couple of weeks. They will pave Diamond Hill sometime this month. He is also trying to get the paving at the Transfer Station done before this winter.

Dwayne said that they will be starting on Bauneg Beg Hill Road at the end of this week or beginning of next week. He said that today they have just been chasing wash outs. Whenever we have heavy rains, it washes out sides of roads so they need to fix it.

Dwayne stated that the bids for salt have come back and it went down to \$5.75 per ton. Selectman Cowan asked what this means in savings if they were going by last year's usage. Dwayne said that they would save about \$6,000.

B. Payroll: Direct Deposit Requirement

Dwayne said that they were supposed to start this on September 1st but they have pushed it out to October 1st. They just installed the new TRIO update last week. One of the things they will be able to do now is email pay stubs instead of printing them out. They will be testing emails for the next month. They did 5 this week but only 3 went through so they need to figure out why this happened. Dwayne said that he has given each of the Selectmen a form to complete for their direct deposit. They need to turn them in by September 23rd.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting – Sept. 18, 2018 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

Joint Meeting with Planning Board – Oct. 2, 2018 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

5. New Business:

A. Commitment FY19: Revised Commitment Forms

Dwayne stated that they had an error on the commitment paperwork. He said that he had to redo his form because the State changed the Homestead Exemption reimbursement and it didn't carry forward the \$120,500 Pay As You Throw funds. Because of the error, instead of having a \$311,000 overlay they will have a \$432,000 overlay. It worked out that this will be beneficial for the town. Selectman Johnson, Jr. stated that our rate increase amounted to about a \$75.00 increase per household so that is not a huge increase. Dwayne said that if they don't have the Homestead Exemption, the rate has gone up 2.5% over the past 4 years. If you have the Homestead Exemption you are still paying less taxes this year than you were paying 6 years ago. Selectman Galemmo said that if they annualized the increases, it would be under 1% per year.

Selectman Galemmo motioned to sign the revised Commitment forms. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

B. Roads: Approve Private Road Name – Noble Way

Dwayne stated that the access way into the High School has just been a private drive to the school so the school address was considered to be Somersworth Road. Now there is a house being built on the access road so the road needs to be named. He contacted the Superintendent to have him name it. Dwayne gave the suggestion of Noble Way and the Superintendent agreed. They need to give the new property owner an address number so he can get power.

Selectman Cowan motioned to rename the access road to Noble Way. Selectman Galemmo seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

C. Con-Ag Commission: Patricia Cluff Resignation

Dwayne stated that Patricia Cluff gave her resignation from the Con-Ag Commission due to medical reasons.

Selectman Galemmo motioned to accept the resignation of Patricia Cluff from the Con-Ag Commission. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

D. Police: Appointment of Patrick Roy as a Reserve Police Officer

Dwayne stated that, for the past several months, they have been looking for Reserve Officers. They did things a little bit differently this time. This time they advertised for Retired or Full Time Police Officers who want to have a part time job. Dwayne stated that, what they are finding is, as they hire Reserve Officers that are not in the police force, they come in, get trained and then we lose them. Dwayne said that they interviewed a few officers and this applicant came to the top. He said that the department is in a difficult situation right now because one of their officers is at the Academy and one officer is out for a medical issue. The reason they are looking for full time certified applicants is because there are no restrictions on their hours. For Reserve Officers, we are restricted. They can only work 1200 hours a year. If we need them to go above that, we need to get special permission from the Academy to allow them to do that. They are only 100 hour certified so the State doesn't want us to hire part time officers for full time duty.

Dwayne stated that this applicant is full time certified. He worked for the Town of Eliot for a couple of years but has since moved out of the police service. However, he would still like to be part of the police service so he is interested in this job. Dwayne said that, by working for us, he gets to maintain his qualifications and we get to have someone that is certified.

Selectman Galemmo motioned to approve Patrick Roy to be hired as Reserve Officer for the Police Department. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

E. General Assistance: Establish Public Hearing for New GA Appendices

Dwayne stated that, every year, they have to approve the new Appendices for General Assistance program. He said that they need to establish a Public Hearing and he is recommending that they hold it at the next meeting on September 18, 2018.

Selectman Galemmo motioned to hold the Public Hearing for the General Assistance Appendices at the September 18, 2018 meeting. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Selectman Cowan asked how many people in town receive General Assistance. Dwayne said that it is less than 1% of the population in town. Last year, they spent \$2,000 in assistance for the total year.

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

Dwayne said that they were approached by the Baseball Association in June and they said that they would like to do a grass infield on the Guptill Field. Dwayne told them to put together something about what they are looking to do. He is still waiting on a few particulars such as if they are going to sprinkle it. Dwayne told them that he needs to know what the added maintenance costs would be so he contacted Gilpatrick to see what he would charge. Gilpatrick said that he is willing to mow the infield for free if they give him a free banner for the season. Their Baseball Board needs to vote on it. Dwayne stated that he needs to know what the added water usage will be if they decide to sprinkle it so we can budget appropriately. Parks and Rec will be meeting next Monday to discuss the improvements but he wanted to find out if the Selectmen had any concerns regarding the grassing of the infield. Dwayne said that he has no problems with it. Most infields are grass now and Little League would like to have the infields grass because it slows the ball down and is safer for the kids.

The Board of Selectmen stated that they had no problems with it.

Dwayne stated that a few years ago, the Board directed the Parks and Rec to reduce the usage agreement to a smaller generic usage agreement. We used to have very specific usage agreements with each organization that used it. We had decided to use a generic usage agreement and then have verbal agreements with the organizations that utilize the fields for each specific sport. Dwayne said that the unfortunate part about the organizations is that their Boards turn over quite frequently. Noble Soccer's Board turns over about every 2 years.

Dwayne said that our agreement with Noble Soccer has always been the same. We sign the agreement and then we ask them to take on a few responsibilities. We ask that we approve the layouts of the field prior to them doing it. We had an issue a few years ago where they laid them out in a situation that would have been unsafe for the kids. We also ask them to provide the manpower to stripe the fields. Noble Soccer said that they didn't want to pay to utilize the fields and that they had enough manpower to stripe the fields. Dwayne said that we set up a time frame for when they could practice. During the summer time, they can practice whenever they want but when our soccer season starts, we get preference of the fields. We then provide them with dates and times that they can practice. For their games, we set aside specific timeframes so that they can have their games in the morning so we can rent the facility on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The renting of the facility is a source of income that helps to keep our costs down. Dwayne said that they have had all of these discussions with past presidents. Dwayne said that they also ask them to pick up the trash after the games. At the beginning of the season, because they have the manpower, we ask them to put out the benches.

This year, the club President changed. When the past President contacted Kristie, she told her that she would inform the Board of what their agreement was. That did not transpire. Our agreement states that they have to provide a liaison between the town and the Parks and Rec. When soccer season was about to start, Kristie reminded the liaison about striping the fields, putting the benches out and the other verbal things that they used to do. The liaison, who is the Vice President of the Noble Soccer, told her that it was not in the agreement so they are not doing it. She also received a very lengthy email from the President of the club. The President

has never spoken to Kristie before but in her email she quotes a lot of complaints from the lady that is the Vice President. Dwayne called the Vice President who is a town resident, and said she has no idea what the President wrote. She said that she has had nothing but good interactions with Kristie and that her kids are in summer camp and participate in all of the activities in town. She said that they had a misunderstanding because it wasn't written in the agreement and they were supposed to be talking as a Board. She said that she would get back to him but he hasn't heard anything back.

Kristie did write back a very lengthy response because of an issue that happened a couple weeks ago. Dwayne stated that they always mow on Wednesdays but that week it rained on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday so our mowers couldn't mow the grass. Kristie got an email on Saturday that the grass wasn't mowed for their games on Sunday. She got a hold of Gilpatrick and they said they would go mow. The President said that they had already striped the field so if she had it mowed, they would need to restripe it. They agreed to have it mowed but they were not happy that they had to restripe it.

Dwayne said there has been some ongoing issues and we have asked them to get in contact with us and haven't heard anything from them. He finally got an email today saying that they were having a Board meeting and they would get back to us. He stated that this is causing some added stress because we are in the middle of our soccer season and they have their soccer season going on. He said that they have not asked the club to do anything different than any other soccer club that utilizes the facility. The club has said that we don't want us at the facility which is the farthest from the truth. We reserved a spot for them because some of the kids are from North Berwick but we have told them that our soccer season takes precedence over everything. It is our kids so if our kids are practicing then their travel club cannot use it. He said that the only thing we ask is that, since they don't want to pay for the use of the fields, is to help with the manpower. Dwayne said that he put the benches out today and Kristie striped the micro fields. We just need to know how we are moving forward. The verbal agreement is that the fields will be striped by 5:00 on Fridays so they are ready for the games on Saturday and Sunday. We supply all of the paint. Dwayne said that he's not sure if they have a lack of manpower now. He told them in his email that if they didn't have enough manpower, to let us know. If we have to go out and hire someone to do it, they will have to have a charge for the fields. Kristie is at her max hours so he can't ask her to out and stripe fields every week.

Selectman Cowan said that, at the very least, we should expect from them to sit down with us and discuss the situation. Dwayne said that he has asked them to contact him and it isn't happening. Selectman Cowan stated that maybe we shouldn't let them use the fields until they do meet with him. She said that if we just continue like this, we are going to continue to have issues. They are refusing to communicate but they want our facility and this doesn't sit well with her. They can at least have a discussion so we can come up with an agreement. Dwayne said that they have gone back to the old agreement for them. Dwayne said that their email stated that it was a community center and the community should be using it. He replied and said that it is the North Berwick taxpayers' Community Center. We take priority over everything else. Dwayne said that he wants to work with them. He has told them in the past that we get a lot of requests from other clubs to use the fields. Some of them would pay to use them.

Dwayne has asked them to get back to him before the end of the week. If he doesn't hear back from them then they will lose their privileges. Chairman Hall stated that, when he does hear from them and if it is not favorable, he would like Dwayne to invite them to the September 18th meeting. If they don't show up, then we will cancel their privileges. Selectman Cowan said that she doesn't think that it is about meeting with them as a Board. She believes that it is more between them and Dwayne and Kristie. Chairman Hall said that the reason he would like to see them is that it is in the middle of their season and it's the kids that are going to suffer. If they get back to Dwayne and they are still confrontational, he would like them to come on the 18th so he can ask them why they want the kids to suffer.

7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	August 28, 2018	- \$ 61,533.40
Warrant:	September 3, 2018	- \$ 21,997.89

Selectman Galemmo motioned to approve the Warrant of August 28, 2018 for the amount of \$61,533.40 and the Warrant of September 3, 2018 for the amount of \$21,997.89. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

6. Other Business – Executive Session – Personnel Issue

Selectman Galemmo motioned to go into Executive Session at 7:27 pm and come back out at 7:57 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. Adjournment:

Selectman Glemmo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

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.