

**North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes November 6, 2018**

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 6, 2018**

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

**Absent:** Selectman Johnson, Jr., Selectman Galemmo

**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 October 16, 2018**

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of October 16, 2018 as written. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

**3. Public Input**

There was no public input at this time.

Dwayne stated that he has seen some complaints on social media about the location of the school for voting. He stated that they have voted at the school since it has been built. Chairman Hall stated that some people are concerned about security and thinks the Community Center would work better. Dwayne stated that the Community Center is not a viable option because it is not big enough. It does not have enough space in it to handle all of stuff that they have. Also, on a day like today, people would have been standing out in the rain. They did look in to using it years ago. Dwayne stated that the only places big enough are the Mary Hurd School that does not have much parking and the Elementary School. He stated that most towns hold the voting at the schools.

Selectman Cowan stated that the one comment that she heard today was that maybe the schools should not be in session on voting days. Dwayne stated that most schools do close on this day. He stated that he sends the Superintendent the dates for any elections prior to them doing their schedule for the upcoming year. He said that they only have one at the Elementary School other than the primary and the school vote in the spring. Chairman Hall stated that the gym at the Elementary doesn't seem to be much bigger than the Community Center. Dwayne stated that the Secretary of State needs to approve our polling places.

Selectman Cowan suggested that Dwayne have a conversation with Steve Connolly and see if they could either have a Teacher Workshop day or close the school. Dwayne said that he has

and Mr. Connolly has stated that he will not close the school for elections. Chairman Hall said that he may want to reconsider this now because a lot of people have voiced their concerns especially about security. Dwayne stated that there are guards posted at the school so that no one can go to the school. He said that they had 50 booths set up today. If they set up that many in the Community Center, it would encompass the entire room. Selectman Cowan would like Dwayne to revisit the question with Mr. Connolly and tell him that there are Teacher Workshops scheduled throughout the year and she sees no reason why one couldn't be scheduled on a voting day. Dwayne said that Mr. Connolly told him that the reason they didn't want to close the school down is because Sanford wasn't closing their school down and it would mess up the Vocational schedule. Dwayne had told him that he didn't have to close the High School. He only had to close the Elementary School. Dwayne said that most of the concerns were more about how much longer it took parents to drop off their kids at school.

#### **4. Unfinished Business:**

##### **A. Public Works: Project Updates**

Dwayne stated that all of the projects are done. They are just shouldering Diamond Hill Road right now. When all is said and done it looks like they will be about \$5,000 over budget. He stated that they should have gotten Diamond Hill Road done today. They will be doing Eastern Avenue, Quarry Road and Bauneg Beg Road. Dwayne stated that the thing that hurt us this year was the escalating clause in the pavement contract.

##### **B. Zoning Ordinance: Discussion on Ordinance Changes for FY19; Medical Marijuana**

Dwayne stated that he sent the changes to the Planning Board. He will be meeting with them at one of their upcoming meetings. Selectman Cowan asked about the certified letter that she received. Dwayne stated that they were accidentally mailed out to them. They are usually put in the Selectmen's mailbox. They usually just notify the Selectmen of the upcoming Public Hearings.

##### **C. Somersworth Road: Speed Limit Report From Chief of Police**

Chief Peasley submitted a letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding their findings for changing the speed limit on Route 9 from 50 to 45 mph. Dwayne stated that if the Selectmen agreed, he would draft a letter to the MDOT requesting that they review that section of road. He stated that it is about a 1.3 mile stretch of road.

Selectman Cowan motioned to have Dwayne draft a letter to MDOT to reduce the speed limit on the 50 mph section on Route 9 to 45 mph. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

**Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting** – Nov. 20, 2018 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

**5. New Business:**

**A. Parks and Rec:** Colleen Fahy Application for Commission

Dwayne stated that Colleen Fahy was supposed to be present tonight but she is not here. He will invite her to come to the next meeting.

**B. Holidays:** Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, January Selectmen Schedule

Dwayne stated that both Christmas and New Years are on a Tuesday. The way that the Personnel Policy reads is that they close half a day on Christmas Eve so that would mean that the staff would come in for half a day on Monday. He asked the Board if they should be closed on Christmas Eve as well as Christmas Day. He said that they do not close early on New Year's Eve.

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned to approve the closing of the office on Christmas Eve. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

Dwayne stated that New Year's Day is on Tuesday and that is actually the same day as the Selectmen's meeting. He said that it is a 5 week month in January so he is recommending that they move the meetings to the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the move of the January meetings to January 8<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

**C. Transfer Station Disposal:** Casella's Acquisition of Oceanside Rubbish

Dwayne stated that Casella has been trying to acquire Oceanside for quite a few years now and it is now final. The owner of Oceanside has some medical issues that he has to deal with and can't really run the company any more. Oceanside owner called Dwayne and told him that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, Casella owns them. He only sold the disposal business. He is still running the Transfer Station in Wells but it will be under a new name. This will reduce his hours to about 50 hours a week.

Selectman Cowan asked if Casella was going to honor our contract with Oceanside. Dwayne said he spoke with Casella today and they told him that nothing is going to change. He said that Oceanside is actually a very profitable business so Casella was very happy about buying it. He thinks that at some point it will be rolled into Pine Tree so it will all become Pine Tree Waste, which is what Casella's southern Maine branch is. Dwayne said that he met with Nate Chapman who is the southern Maine Manager. Mr. Chapman said that we would see no difference. They kept all of the employees that were with Oceanside.

Chairman Hall asked how long our contract was for. Dwayne said that we have a 5 year contract and we will complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in December. They said that they would honor all of our agreements. Dwayne stated that we have a verbal agreement on our recycling rate of \$45 until March of next year and Casella has agreed to honor that too.

Dwayne said that they will need to start discussing what they will do about recycling. He said that recycling rates are currently \$110 per ton and there is no end in sight in regards to the cost. He said that the rate for trash is currently \$71 per ton. Chairman Hall asked if it had to do with going to a single stream system. Dwayne said that it all has to do with China. When China closed their doors to our recycling market, we no longer have a place to send it. Dwayne said that they closed their doors because it is a way for them to clean up their environment. Selectman Cowan said that one of the reasons that China is not taking trash from the United States anymore is because of the higher contamination levels in our trash. They are still taking trash from Canada because the Canadians are very stringent about what they accept in their recycling. It has to be clean and they have to use see thru bags so they can see what is in it. Dwayne stated that the United States allows a 5% contamination rate and China wants less than .3% contamination rate. There have been some other countries that have opened up such as Korea and Vietnam. Dwayne said that these countries are nowhere near the size of China so they can't handle the waste. He stated that this is a crisis across the United States. We are all going to pay dearly for recycling.

Selectman Johnson, Sr. said that we don't use any plastics or other recyclables in our country so why is there all of this talk about saving the plastic. Dwayne said that we do use it to a certain extent. He said that you when you look at recyclables, you need to break down the different recycling markets. One of the biggest recycling markets is paper and cardboard and these were almost exclusively going to China. The other market is plastics. The unfortunate thing about plastics is that with the price of oil, it is cheaper to make new plastics than it is to recycle old. When oil was at \$100 per barrel, the United States was recycling plastics left and right. We are now hovering between \$65 and \$80 per barrel so now it is not worth recycling. Dwayne stated that Americans as a whole, do not buy recycled products. The one thing that we tend to buy that is made out of recycled products is decking. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked where the regular waste was going. Dwayne said that it goes to a landfill. Selectman Johnson, Sr. said that recycling is the conscientious thing for us to recycle in America. It costs us more but we don't use it.

Dwayne stated that a lot of places are looking at not recycling because it is cheaper for a municipal budget to not recycle. Selectman Johnson, Sr. said that they are going to end up stockpiling the recyclables. He stated that if we are not going to use it what is the difference between stockpiling and the landfill. Dwayne stated that it will probably eventually be landfilled. Chairman Hall said that it will end up in the ocean. Dwayne said that if they landfill it, it won't end up in the ocean. What is ending up in the ocean is what people are not landfilling. Most of the stuff that is in the ocean is not from the United States. It is actually from third world countries that don't have the resources. Chairman Hall said that these countries are buying our products so our stuff is eventually ending up out in the ocean. Dwayne said that most of the plastics are not made in the United States anymore. They are mostly made in Indo China. Dwayne said that there are still robust markets in those foreign countries for plastics but they don't have the waste management systems that we have in the United States. He said that what they are planning to do with the stuff that they will pull out of the ocean is to bring it to the United States because we are the only country in the world that has the ability to take care of it. We have the land available to landfill the trash.

Selectman Cowan asked Dwayne what he envisions the impact to us will be. Dwayne said that, in March of next year, it will probably cost us about \$110 per ton to recycle. He said that our numbers are not huge. We recycle about 300 to 600 tons per year. At \$110 per ton, that would be about \$6,000 per year but every little bit adds to cost. He said that right now at \$45 per ton they can go a couple of years and recoup it. Right now they are passing it through our Pay As You Throw program. Last year, they did it and the Pay As You Throw program turned a profit. This year, he thinks that we will be close to breaking even. Last year, they banked about \$13,000 in profit. When the recycling costs go up, that \$13,000 is what is going to get eaten away.

Chairman Hall asked if we had ever sent our rubbish to be burned at MERC. Dwayne said that they used to. Chairman Hall asked if it had stopped because it was cheaper. Dwayne said it was because Casella closed the MERC facility. We have a contract with Casella to handle the disposal of our waste. They closed MERC and manage a landfill so that's where it goes because our contract is with them. Chairman Hall asked where the landfill was located. Dwayne said that it was in Old Town and is called Juniper Ridge. Dwayne said that Casella does send some waste to be burned. They send waste to different locations. The contract is up in 2023. They take our waste and whatever they do with it is their responsibility. Casella does send some of their waste to get burned at Eco Maine and some goes to PERC. Dwayne stated that Juniper Ridge is owned by the State of Maine and they hired Casella to take care of the landfill. He stated that once Fiberite goes on line he thinks that PERC will fold because 90% of their towns have signed contracts with Fiberight. The question is whether Fiberite will ever get off the ground or not. Fiberite is a new company that believes that they can process waste at a cheaper cost without incineration mostly through recycling and reclaiming. They are building a plant in Hampden. It was supposed to go online this year but it looks like that has been pushed out to next year.

Dwayne said that European countries are way beyond us in terms of waste because for them it is a necessity. They don't have any place to put it. He said that places like Kansas, Oklahoma or anywhere in the dust belt, you can get rid of trash at \$5 per ton because it is land that is unusable. They can't plant crops there. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how deep they put the landfills. Dwayne said that they don't go deep but they do go high. Chairman Hall asked if there was a law that prohibited the towns from doing their own landfills. Dwayne said that at least 20 years ago, the State said that they had to get permitted. Once the permitting started, town landfills went away because they can't afford the permits. Now the State has new laws and expansion of landfills are nearly impossible. There are only 3 landfills in the State of Maine right now that are viable. They will be allowed to expand to certain boundaries such as in Norridgewock, Juniper Ridge and one in Aroostook County. The one in Aroostook County is almost at its capacity. Once they reach their capacity, the likelihood of them expanding will probably not happen. They tried to expand Norridgewock and Juniper Ridge this past year and DEP is reviewing. There is still a ton of capacity but they are usually looking 20 years ahead.

Dwayne said that, as a State, we are going to have an issue. Right now there are only 2 incinerators left in the State. Eco Maine is at capacity so they can't burn any more waste than what they have coming in. PERC has tons of capacity once Fiberite goes online. The problem is

getting it there. We could send it to PERC but the price per ton is going to significantly increase. Also running incinerators is not cheap. The cheapest way is throwing it in the ground on a current basis. Chairman Hall said that so many people put so many things in their trash that probably shouldn't be buried. Dwayne said that landfills like Juniper Ridge are state of the art landfills. The way that they line the landfills now, it has minor effect on the environment. Everything is collected and they are generating power from the methane that is being created. They layer it so it decomposes and creates more methane. Dwayne said that he can't say that the landfills will never contaminate the land but the way they are designing them now definitely seems to be working. Selectman Cowan asked what they were lining them with. Dwayne said they are using feet of clay. Selectman Johnson, Sr. asked how they were collecting the methane. Dwayne said that the methane rises so they put pipes in to collect it.

Dwayne said that in terms of Oceanside to Casella, he doesn't think that it will be a very big difference.

**D. Audit: Status Update**

Dwayne said that they finished the audit and it went well. They were here about 2 days and they did not find anything significant. The accountant should be in sometime in January to go over the audit with the Board. They have been trying to clean up some things. The biggest thing is that they are trying to get their computer system to match. They have made some inroads this year and he hopes that this year is the final adjustment to be made. They are just working on the operations for the town to make things work more smoothly.

**E. William Hill Firefighters Assoc.: Blanket Bingo Letter for 2019**

Dwayne said that they are just looking for a blanket Bingo letter for the calendar year 2019. They have already picked all of their dates from January through April. They usually start up again in September but have not set those dates yet. Dwayne said that they are going to try and get the dates for September through the end of October from them as soon as they can because he want to get them to Travel Soccer.

Selectman Johnson, Sr. motioned to approve the Blanket Bingo Letter for 2019 for the William Hill Firefighters Association. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

**6. Other Business:**

Selectman Cowan asked if they had made any decisions regarding the lights on the sign out front. Dwayne said that Selectman Johnson, Sr. will be looking into it. Selectman Cowan said that they need to do something because you can't even see it. Dwayne said that he just wants to make sure that it looks good. Selectman Cowan said that she thinks a nice shrub with a light nestled into it and have it shining up at the sign would be okay. Selectman Johnson, Sr. said that it doesn't need to be far out from the sign. There are lights that can be close to the sign that would look good. Dwayne said if they put a garden or bush there then that means that someone will have to take care of it. The Board went on to discuss other options regarding things like the

type of light to use, type of bush or plant, problems with mowing or snow removal and where the light would be placed. Dwayne will look into it further so they can work on it in the spring.

Selectman Cowan stated that there is no street light at the end of Randall Road and she said that it is hard to see there. Dwayne said that the Selectmen would need to vote on having a street light installed. Chairman Hall asked how much it would cost. Dwayne said that it would depend what kind of light they want him to get. He said that a street light typically costs \$20 a month plus electricity for a total of about \$25 per month. Chairman Hall asked what the initial cost would be. Dwayne said that there is no initial cost but they have to guarantee that they will pay for it for 20 years. Dwayne said that the policy of the town is that we don't install street lights unless they are at the intersection of 2 public roads which this one would meet.

Selectman Cowan motioned to have a street light installed at the intersection of Randall Road and Route 9. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

Dwayne stated that most of the lights are 250 watts. Selectman Cowan stated that there is a house there at the end. Dwayne said that these new lights cast a lot of light right where they are so it will probably shine in their house. Selectman Cowan said that they are not at street level. Their house is on a slight hill. Dwayne said that the light will be on a telephone pole. Selectman Cowan said that there was no pole there. Dwayne said that there must be a pole on the corner somewhere. Dwayne looked up the area on the computer to see if there was a pole. It looks like there already is a pole with a light on it. Dwayne stated that maybe it just wasn't working.

Selectman Cowan rescinded her previous motion.

Dwayne will go look at it tomorrow and check if the light is working.

**7. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:**

Warrant:	October 23, 2018	- \$	0.00
Warrant:	October 30, 2018	- \$	0.00
Warrant:	November 6, 2018	- \$	94,744.25

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the Warrant of November 6, 2018 for the amount of \$94,744.25. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

**8. Adjournment:**

Selectman Cowan motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 3-0

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.

