

North Berwick Board of Selectmen Minutes January 22, 2019

**NORTH BERWICK BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2019**

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

Also Present: Dwayne Morin, Qiana Qualls, Jason M. Smith, William Houston, Rebecca Reed, Mark Reed, William Hill, Mark Chilicki

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Review and Approve Minutes of January 8, 2019

Selectman Cowan stated that on Page 3, under the Personnel Policy section, the first sentence currently reads, "Dwayne stated that, that back in December...". It should read, "Dwayne stated that, back in December...".

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of January 8, 2019 as amended. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

6. Unfinished Business:

B. Sanitary District: Request from Sanitary District to CEO

Dwayne stated that he met with the Sanitary District and everything is now fine with them. It was just a misunderstanding.

7. New Business:

C. Liquor License: Review Johnson Seafood and Steak Liquor License

Dwayne stated that Johnson Seafood and Steak are still in their 5 year period and Dwayne just got the liquor license from them last week so he didn't have time to set up a Public Hearing. However, in the State Law, it says that the Board may hold a Public Hearing and if they have had a consecutive license they can ask for a waiver of the Hearing. Dwayne asked the Board if they wanted to act on the license tonight or do they want to hold a Public Hearing at the next meeting. He said that their liquor license expires on February 11th. Our next meeting is on February 5th so it would be a tight window for them to get it up to Augusta to get their liquor license. Selectman Johnson, Jr. asked if we have had any incidences with them. Dwayne said that we have not had any problems with them and the current owners have owned the restaurant. Selectman Cowan

stated that they are a well established business and she has no problem with waiving the Public Hearing.

Selectman Galemmo motioned that they waive the Public Hearing for the liquor license for Johnson Seafood and Steak. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Selectman Galemmo motioned to approve the liquor license for Johnson Seafood and Steak. Selectman Cowan seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

8. Other Business:

Dwayne stated that they are now notifying the Selectmen when a Conditional Use Permit comes before the Planning Board. On Page 115, there is a memo from Roger Frechette stating that there is a Conditional Use application for Clark McDermith and his business, East Coast Bio located on Route 9. He has been running the business as a Home Occupation because it was in the barn next to his house. He wants to switch that from a Home Occupation to a Business use. This will allow him to hire more employees. Selectman Cowan asked what the nature of the business was. Dwayne stated that he does scientific biotechnical things. He is really the salesman for really brilliant scientists all over the country. The scientists develop products and Mr. McDermith independently tests them and sells the products. Selectman Cowan asked if he did the testing on site. Dwayne said that he believes that he does some on site and some is done off site. Dwayne stated that, with Home Occupation, he is limited to 4 employees. By changing the use, he will be able to hire more.

Dwayne stated that, on the last page of their packet, there is a letter from the Neighborly Craft Fair Board of Directors. Last year was the 11th year that they did the fair and they have now disbanded. He said that it has been 4 ladies that have been running it and it is a huge undertaking so they have decided that it is time for them to take a break. They have raised over \$66,000 over the past 11 years. They have passed the management of the fair to the Food Pantry but he is not sure if they will take it on.

2. Public Hearing: 6:35 PM Medical Marijuana Licensing Ordinance and

3. Public Hearing: 6:35 PM Food Sovereignty Ordinance

Chairman Hall read the Legal Notice into the minutes:

Town of North Berwick Public Hearing
Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – 6:35 P.M.
Town Hall Room 212

Board of Selectmen Proposed Licensing for Medical Marijuana Establishment Ordinance and
Proposed Food Sovereignty Ordinance
Public Hearing

The Board of Selectmen will hold a Public Hearing in the Town Hall Room 212 room, to solicit input on the proposed Licensing for Medical Marijuana Establishments Ordinance and the Proposed Food Sovereignty Ordinance.

The Public Hearing will be held on the Proposed Licensing for Medical Marijuana Establishments Ordinance. The purpose of this Ordinance is to provide for and regulate the issuance of Local Licenses for Medical Marijuana Establishments as defined in the North Berwick Zoning Ordinance and by the State of Maine under the Medical Marijuana Act, 22 MRSA, as may be amended.

The Public Hearing will be held on the proposed Local Food Sovereignty Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to encourage food self-sufficiency for its citizens through local control.

Copies of the proposed Ordinances are available in the Town Clerk's Office during regular scheduled hours as well as on the Town of North Berwick website: townofnorthberwick.org.

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

Dwayne stated that the first Public Hearing is for the Proposed Licensing for Medical Marijuana Establishments Ordinance. In order for the Town to license anything, we need to have an Ordinance that allows us to license those uses and we currently do not have one for Medical Marijuana Establishments in our community. This is a result of a lot of Zoning Ordinance changes that will be presented to the town citizens to vote on at the Town Meeting. He said that there are 8 questions that they are asking the voters as to whether they want to adopt Medical Marijuana land uses. He said that there are multiple land uses that come with the Medical Marijuana law. The Planning Board have been working on the Zoning Ordinance changes since May of last year. One of the functions that they have looked at is licensing Medical Marijuana Establishments. This Ordinance will allow the Selectmen to license these establishments. The cost will be \$1,000 per year for the licenses. One of the other components of the Medical Marijuana rules and zoning that are being proposed is to allow Medical Marijuana Retail Stores. We would only allow 1 in our community. In order to do that we have to establish a lottery protocol and in this licensing is a lottery protocol.

Mark Chilicki asked if this \$1,000 license was going to be on top of the other licenses required. Dwayne said that this would be a Town license and not a State license. Mr. Chilicki asked what the purpose of the license was. Dwayne said that it is for the town to track. There are a bunch of performance standards that comes with the new proposed zoning Ordinance and we need to make sure that all of these performance standards are being followed. The Code Enforcement Officer will have the ability to go out and make sure that these rules and regulations are being followed. Mr. Chilicki asked if the Town Ordinances would be fulfilled once the contractor and Code Enforcement Officer validate the building or accept the proposed location. Dwayne said that this would be more for ongoing regulations as it relates to things such as odor control and waste disposal that need to be kept up to date. Mr. Chilicki stated that they were going to be funding an employee with the \$1,000 license fee. Dwayne said that it would not even be close. He said that they're talking about generating about \$3,000 per year for town revenue. Our CEO

costs us about \$120,000 per year. Mr. Chilicki asked if was for all of medical marijuana or just the one issue. Dwayne said that it would be for all medical marijuana establishments such as commercial cultivation, retail stores, manufacturing facilities, counseling offices and labs.

Mr. Chilicki asked if they were limiting 1 for each of these and Dwayne said that they were only limiting the 1 for the retail store. Mr. Chilicki asked if the one medical outlet could change a year later to go to retail. Dwayne stated that there are a multitude of land uses that are available under Medical Marijuana establishments. There are cultivation facilities, which we are not limiting to a specific number. There are manufacturing facilities which would be for edibles and things along those lines. Counseling offices would be basically like a doctor's office where they can schedule and manage registered patients properly. There are also lab testing facilities and dispensaries. All of these are considered Medical Marijuana establishments and all of them would be required to have a license. We will allow one Medical Marijuana store within our community. Mr. Chilicki asked if they were working on just the Medical Marijuana or the Recreational Marijuana as well. Dwayne said that they are strictly dealing with the Medical Marijuana right now. He said that there cannot be commercial marijuana at this time because the State has not set up the regulations. Mr. Chilicki said that the retail store part is what is messing him up because you can't have retail stores for Medical Marijuana and they have to be dispensaries. Dwayne stated there were provisions that were established in the new Medical Marijuana Law that allows for Medical Marijuana retail stores. Mr. Chilicki asked if the State was allowing only one of them. Dwayne said that it was the Selectmen that decided to propose to the voters to just have 1 retail store.

Dwayne stated that the Ordinances are available for public view on the Town website.

Dwayne went on to discuss the Food Sovereignty Ordinance. He said that this is a result of the Conservation and Agricultural Commission's work in the community. About 2 years ago, we passed a policy that supported Food Sovereignty within our community which encourages local control of local food sourcing. Last year, the Legislature allowed towns to pass Food Sovereignty Ordinances, so it is being put before the voters this year. The Ordinance basically takes our policy that we have had in place for 2 years and puts it into Ordinance form.

Dwayne said that the Attorney made a lot of changes to the wording from the draft that the Commission had put together. Dwayne said that the boiler plate that the Commission used comes off of the Food Sovereignty website and it didn't pass legal muster. A lot of the constitutional stuff and law stuff that was in it was removed because it was in conflict with State Law. Dwayne stated that we need to make sure that our Ordinances are in concert with State Law so we don't create any problems. They also removed some definitions that you never found the terms in the Ordinance at all. Only the words that are found in the Ordinance are maintained in the definition section.

Mark Chilicki asked Dwayne if he could give him a brief explanation about the Ordinance and what it meant. He asked if people were growing any food. Dwayne said that we have lots of local farmers and some participate in the Farmers Market on Fridays. Dwayne said that there are a lot of laws at the State level as it relates to local farms and selling their goods to customers. This Ordinance will allow the farmers to do some things that the State Law may not allow. An

example would be someone who would like to sell honey. This Ordinance would now allow them to do that without going through all of the USDA guidelines. He said that there are 2 primary things that are not allowed to be done and they are meat and poultry. This is because of the Meat and Poultry Act which doesn't allow it. Selectman Johnson, Jr. said that this Ordinance will allow you to peddle your goods to your neighbors.

Chairman Hall closed the Public Hearing at 6:50 pm.

5. Public Input

Mark Chilicki stated that he liked the lottery idea but he wondered if there was a possibility to find out who the first caregiver was in town. They could have the first opportunity since they have been waiting for it for a while. Dwayne said that it doesn't work that way because there are certain other criteria that they would need to meet to be able to do that such as having a location. The only way that it can be done is by a legal lottery. Mr. Chilicki asked if they could do it if the person already had a place and location lined up already. Dwayne stated that our attorneys have said, that the only way a lottery would work and for it to be legal is to have it be an open thing regardless if you are the first caregiver or not. He said that there might be a multitude of people that are interested. Mr. Chilicki stated that the State is doing the same thing. He said that they are now considering going back to using the list of caregivers. He said that there has been a lot of interest but it has been after the fact. There have been a lot of people that have been waiting in line, but because we have a part time Legislation, we have fallen behind Massachusetts on this. There have been some people that have been waiting a very long time and were in place 2 years ago and have now fallen behind to other people that have come aboard in the latter years. When you talk about a lottery, you are actually adding people to that pool that wouldn't have been there a year and a half ago if the State would have had its laws in place like it should have. Mr. Chilicki said that the State is looking into this so his lawyer told him to bring it up to the Selectmen tonight. Dwayne stated that our attorney has recommended this process to our Board and we are going to follow what our attorney has recommended.

Selectman Galemmo said that the caregivers are still going to be able to sell their product. The thing about a retail store is that you don't have to grow it and you can buy from others. He said that if you are selling your own product, you don't need to be a retail store. Mr. Chilicki agreed but he feels that he could optimize the product clientele with the proper outlet and the proper traffic. Chairman Hall stated that we are a small town and he believes that the Selectmen felt like it would be fair. He does, however, understand Mr. Chilicki's position because he has been waiting. Mr. Chilicki said that a lottery is considering a lot of people who jumped on at the end. He feels that, just to be fair, the Selectmen may want to rethink the lottery. He thinks that they should look to see who has been a caregiver for a while because that was the birth of the medical industry. Now, we've gotten a bunch of people that have got their license and are waiting in anticipation of having a retail adult outlet. He said that the town is going to allow 1 retail Medical Marijuana outlet and they could possibly give it to the person who just jumped on board last week. Qiana Qualls asked if it would be legal to possibly weight the lottery applicants. Mr. Chilicki said that it is a big opportunity for anyone that gets it because there is a 2 door theory that is out there. He doesn't feel that it is fair if somebody that has just received their license wins the lottery and people that have been working hard all of these years are left behind.

Chairman Hall stated that the person needs to own a piece of land in the designated area to be part of the lottery. Dwayne said that they have to submit a proposal and they are looked at. Selectman Cowan asked Dwayne to give a brief explanation of who will be allowed to participate in the lottery. Dwayne said that anybody that is a licensed caregiver will be able to do so. They will need to submit a proposal to the town showing where they are going to do it and adhere to all of the rules and regulations that will be in affect at the time. Once all of these are combined, then they will be put into a lottery with all of the other names. One name will be pulled out and it will be held. Their proposal will need to go through the Planning Board process to get their license. If they fail to get their license at the Planning Board level, then another name is picked. It is a 2 tier process. You have to go through the process of showing what they are proposing and showing on the initial review that it looks like they could obtain a permit.

Chairman Hall asked Dwayne if he had asked if the applicant would need to be a resident of North Berwick. Dwayne said that he did not ask the attorney but he doesn't think that they would be able restrict it in that way. In any other Zoning Law, you cannot limit it like that because it is unconstitutional. William Houston said that he is on the Conservation and Agricultural Commission and they are trying to promote agriculture in our community. His concern is that he doesn't want to see a big corporate company coming in to town to do this. Dwayne said that a company wouldn't be able to do that because you have to be a licensed caregiver and they can only be individuals. If you are a corporation, the only way you could do this is by opening up a dispensary which is a state issued license. Chairman Hall said that it also does not pass on from generation to generation. Dwayne said that the permit stays with that registered caregiver. If something happens to that caregiver, his child, spouse or other family member cannot continue to run that store. It would go back to another lottery.

Qiana Qualls asked about the permit and if it was only good for 1 year. Dwayne stated that once they have their permit it is theirs. There is an annual licensing fee but the permit is theirs until they give it up or pass away. Jason Smith asked if they would be allowed to rent their license and Dwayne said they would not be allowed to rent.

Mr. Chilicki said that everything regarding Medical Marijuana is still basically the same. It looks like the only real thing that has changed is the retail store part. Dwayne said that there is actually more than that. Chairman Hall said that there are now several land uses to consider and previously, we were not allowed to regulate all of them. Dwayne stated that, starting December 13th, everything changed in the Medical Marijuana field. Anything that is going to be allowed within our town, the town has to opt in. As of December 13th, the only way that Medical Marijuana will happen in our community is if we say "yes" and opt in. We are currently opting out so if somebody came in today and applied for a permit, we would deny it. We will be presenting it to our voters to opt in. On April 6th, when the citizens vote, if they vote "no", it is done and we will have no Medical Marijuana operations except for those that existed prior to December 13th that were properly licensed. Everything else is not allowed to move forward until we actually pass zoning regulations that allow it. Mr. Chilicki asked if someone is grandfathered, will they have permit fees. Dwayne stated that there will be permit fees if you are a Medical Marijuana establishment.

7. New Business:

A. Audit: Review FY18 Audit with Town Auditors

Dwayne introduced our auditor, William Hall from RHR Smith & Company. He has been auditing our books for about 10 years now.

Mr. Hall started to go through the audit. He stated that Pages 1, 2 and 3 are the most important pages of the document. It is where he forms his opinion on the figures. He stated that we have a non-qualifying opinion which means that there are no qualifiers and that everything is good to go. The next section is the Management's Discussion Analysis. If Dwayne wanted to add any information, it would be in this section from Pages 4 through 11. These pages are unaudited, however, a lot of the numbers in there are audited. It is just the information for the verbiage that is unaudited. Mr. Hall told the Board to look at Statement C which is on page 15. This document is a snapshot of June 30, 2018. At that time, we had \$4.2 million in assets of which \$3.7 million of it was cash. Liabilities were at \$573,000 and most of that were from Due to funds. The Deferred Inflows is our deferred revenues which is our outstanding taxes minus prepaid taxes. Mr. Hall stated that the number that most Town Managers and Selectmen members really care about is the General Fund balance. It is currently at \$3.468 million on June 30th. Of that, \$586,000 is assigned. We have \$2.88 million in unassigned funds to use in our FY20 budget. On Page 17 is our Revenues and Expenses from last year. The town took in \$10.5 million which was mostly from property taxes, excise taxes and intergovernmental revenue. We had expenses of \$10.347 million which was mostly due to education, public safety and general government. Public works was just under \$900,000. He stated that our Fund Balance grew by \$139,000 from \$3.3 million to \$3.4 million.

Mr. Hall moved on to Pages 19-21. He stated that he uses North Berwick as a tool for other towns. He said that a lot of southern towns are getting into the Pay Per Throw Program and unfortunately, a lot of them are not making it work. It does work well in North Berwick. Mr. Hall said that he has given a lot of finance people or other Town Managers Dwayne's number so they can see how we do it here. He stated that we have the best and most flourishing Pay Per Throw Program than any other town that he audits.

Mr. Hall stated that Pages 22 through 61 are the Notes to Financial Statements. He told the Selectmen that if they ever wanted to read this document, they should start with Note 1. This has all of the terminology and verbiage for what a lot of governmental accounting stuff is. Other than that, the Notes just give you a little bit more description or in depth look at something like our Capital Assets or Long Term Debt.

Dwayne told the Selectmen that the audit has grown in number of pages this year. This is because there is a new thing called GASB 75 which means that we need to give a financial statement on our health insurance program. This information is provided to us from Maine Municipal because that is who provides us with our health insurance. There were about 13 pages that were added to the audit this year. Mr. Hall stated that GASB has, in the last 2 to 3 years, added about 25 pages of information which includes health insurance, retirement information, pension retirement from the State or if it was a self-funded pension. GASB is really trying to

incorporate governmental audits into for business companies. If you are a for business company, like Bill's Snack Shack that has to do a government audit because they received federal money, it really becomes detailed. This is what they are trying to do with municipalities. They are trying to disclose every single aspect of every single thing that the town does. On Page 63 is the Budget and Actual sheet. Our revenues came in at \$256,886 higher. Our expenses were at \$471,000 and we used \$309,790 of unassigned fund. Mr. Hall stated that our revenues caused that \$139,000 increase in Fund Balance.

Mr. Hall stated that starting on Page 78, the reports show how much is in our Reserves and where the Reserves are. They include the Equipment Fund, Town Hall, Caleb Foundation, TIF Funds and Road Bond. The Equipment Fund is at \$320,000. He always recommends to towns, municipalities, schools and non-profits to put money in Reserve Funds. It helps for a couple of different things. It helps with the cash flow but it also helps you in case you have any major problems. You can take the cash from here instead of from the budget. Mr. Hall stated that we are a Yellow Book Audit which means that in the last 10 to 15 years, we probably had a USDA loan. We had to look at it and make sure that you are making payments and it was all fine.

Mr. Hall stated that his overall assessment of the Town of North Berwick is that we had another good year. We have a pretty good solid Fund Balance. He stated that he has been working with Dwayne to see if we can streamline any processes. Everything has been going well for the Town of North Berwick.

Selectman Galemmo asked what level of cash reserve should there be as a percent of total expenses. Mr. Hall said that he doesn't usually use a percentage. He usually will look at our in and out flows and look at the budget to see if there are any spikes or declines depending on how we budget for our capital. Most of the time our capital comes out of the Equipment Fund and that has a pretty good balance right now. He doesn't think that we need any other Reserve accounts. Selectman Cowan asked if there were any areas of concern. Mr. Hall said that one of the only concerns that he brings up to Dwayne every year is the relationship that we have with Rescue and a little bit with the Library as well. The Town pretty much pays a lot of their bills and do the payroll out of our office but we don't really have a say in what they do.

Dwayne stated that our policy regarding Reserves is that we want to maintain 90 days of reserves. He said that when they go to Bonds, that is what they want to see for reserves. This gives us a Class A rating.

6. Unfinished Business:

A. Zoning Ordinance: Discussion on Ordinance Changes for FY19; Medical Marijuana

Dwayne stated that at our last couple of meetings, we have gone over all of the changes for the Medical Marijuana. It went to our attorney and they have changed a few things and have asked some questions. On Page 28 is the Public Hearing Notice for the Planning Board. It will be held at the January 24, 2019 meeting. Dwayne stated that on Page 30 and 31 of the packet, there is the 10 Referendum Questions that the town will act on. Question #1 will talk about Dispensaries. Question #2 will talk about Home Cultivation. Question #3 will talk about

Commercial Cultivation. Question #4 will talk about Medical Marijuana Testing Facilities. Question #5 will talk about Medical Marijuana Manufacturing Facilities. Question #6 will talk about Retail Stores. Question #7 will talk about Medical Marijuana Counseling Offices. Dwayne stated that the biggest concern was how to treat the General Standards. In order to handle this, in each question there is specific things that go with each one of those uses and then there is the General Standards. That way if only 1 of the questions passes, at least we will have the General Standards pass. Question #8 is a change to our Street Construction Ordinance. Dwayne said that when our Private Road definition was passed, some of the definition was inadvertently left out. Question # 9 will talk about the Licensing for Medical Marijuana Establishments. Selectman Galemmo suggested that the switch Questions 8 and 9 so that all of the questions associated with Medical Marijuana are together. Dwayne said that he will do that.

On Page 33 is the list of the definitions that are being added. The majority of the changes that our attorney made was in the definition stage. The attorney took out anything that is not mentioned in our Ordinance. She also changed the language so it stacked up to what the State Law is. He stated that the big change is with the collocations. Dwayne stated that the Board had had a very long discussion about allowing people to do collocations. This means building a building and have 3 growers in it. The Board had said that they had to be a distinct and separate space. Unfortunately the law does not allow us to say that. He said that the State Law says that collectives are prohibited, however collectives can share certain things. They can't share growing space but they can share things like utilities, lobby or a bathroom. Our definition has been changed to say, "Collectives are prohibited in the Farm and Forest. They are allowed in the other zones to the extent provide by State Law.". Selectman Cowan asked how many they had limited it to. Dwayne said that they had not limited this at all. Selectman Cowan stated that this could potentially meant that they could have a very large building. Dwayne said that they never limited building size. Chairman Hall said that he is pretty sure that he made a comment about the size. Dwayne said that they limited the individual growth areas to 2500 square feet but said nothing about the building size. Selectman Cowan said that they did that because they didn't know that a number of people could share spaces. Selectman Galemmo said that he thought they had only discussed that they couldn't do it in Farm and Forest. Dwayne said that they cannot do it in Farm and Forest. They can only do it in the Commercial zones. Chairman Hall thought they were including Farm and Forest. He is fine with doing it elsewhere.

Dwayne said that on Page 36, we had a definition of a Plant Canopy. The idea was that the plant canopy can be no more than 2500 square feet. Our attorneys are recommending against that. They are changing it to a Vegetative Footprint. A Plant Canopy only talks about flowering plants. About 40% of the Plant Canopy is dedicated to flowering plants and the rest are dedicated to drones, clones and male plants which don't count towards Plant Canopy. If you limit someone to 2,500 square feet that is actually 5,000 square feet. This is why it was changed to Vegetative Footprint.

Dwayne stated that they did not make many changes to Medical Marijuana Registered Dispensaries section, none of which are of any significance. Under the Home Cultivation section, they just added that Commercial sale is prohibited for Home cultivation. On Page 41, under Collocation, the changes were made to bring it into compliance so that if you allow collocation, then you can collocate certain things.

On Page 46, there is a change to the section about Signage. Dwayne stated that they had talked about putting that they had to have certain signage and they could only do certain things with the signage such as have the word “Medical” included. Dwayne said that they can limit it to black and white signs only. Everything else they had suggested was removed because it violates Free Speech.

C. Town Report: Discussion on Cover and Dedication

Dwayne said that the Board had agreed to the picture of the new ambulance for the cover. The other thing is that they need to decide on who they want to dedicate it to. He will need a name for the next meeting.

Reminders: Next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting – Feb. 5, 2019 – 6:30 pm Municipal Building

7. New Business:

B. FY20: Review Budget Requests, Draft Warrant, Employee COLA

Dwayne said that they need to determine the COLA for the employee for the upcoming year. This year the COLA was 2.5% and that is what he built into the budget. If the Board would like to do something different, they can do so.

Selectman Cowan motioned to establish the COLA at 2.5%. Selectman Johnson, Jr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne said that he needs a draft Warrant for the Budget Committee to work off of. It is basically the same draft Warrant format that we have had for the past 10 to 12 years.

Selectman Cowan motioned to approve the same format for the draft Warrant. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

Dwayne said that when all of the requests came in it was about a 6.5% increase in the overall budget. The budget that he has before the Board now is a 4.6% increase. The increase in taxes is at 1.63% which is not actually an increase. Last year in taxes, we raised \$2.82 million to fund the town budget. He is proposing \$2.86 million this year. This is \$46,000 more in taxes to fund town government than we raised last year. However, we had an excess overlay of \$200,000 and that stayed and is sitting in the budget framework. We are also anticipating \$103,000 new tax revenue because of new personal property and new real estate. He thinks that these numbers are low but he would rather go conservative than go too high. He will take the \$103,000 and split it in half. He will use \$51,600 to fund Town government and \$51,600 for the school funding. His increase is only \$46,000. Chairman Hall asked how much of a cushion do they have for the school budget. Dwayne said they have about \$255,000 as a cushion. He is also just budgeting \$137,000 for State Revenue Sharing. If the State funds it fully we would get about \$340,000.

Selectman Galemmo stated that, with this budget, it will not cause the taxes to go up. Dwayne said that this budget could help them in reducing taxes. Dwayne said that our excise tax collections are up. He is only budgeting \$850,000 but we will probably collect around \$880,000. The excess excise tax gets put into our Equipment Fund. He stated that we have about \$324,000 and we will be adding about \$70,000 to \$80,000 into it. He said that he will be using \$153,000 out of it.

Dwayne stated that Rescue is just about even and Fire is just about even. Town Office is up about 3%. Transfer Station is up primarily because recycling went up about 5.5%. Public Works is up primarily due to some costs that have increased and because of some of the Capital that we are going to look at. The big thing is Winter Public Works. Last year we expended everything that we had. We did not bring anything forward for the first time in about 10 years. He likes to be at \$150,000. We started the year at \$125,000 and hopefully the rest of the winter is not bad. Dwayne stated that he is not happy with the quote that he got for the sand and salt shed. He kept the number in but he has hired Civil Consultants to go out and look at it.

Dwayne stated that Eastern Trail would once again like for us to join. They are coming our way. There are still some issues that we need to work through with them. He stated that they have changed their ways on how the trail should be funded. They have gone back to the older methods whether they seek out grants and it is not borne by the community. Their dues are \$5,000 per year but they are offering us a 1 time buy back in for \$3,500. He stated that one of the reasons that he is more interested in this now is because our 2 biggest employers want to see this happen. They have talked about contributing money towards the construction. Dwayne stated that Pratt & Whitney, Hussey Seating and Pike Industries out of Wells would like to see this happen. They see it as a health benefit for their employees. The Sanitary District is still a stumbling block. Right now that trail is gated at 5:00 when they leave. How is the Sanitary District going to work with the Eastern Trail? Dwayne stated that he has put the Eastern Trail in touch with the Sanitary District and told them that they need to work it out.

The Board agreed to add the \$3,500 for the Eastern Trail into the budget.

Dwayne stated that he got confirmation on the cost of the one ton and the second estimate came in significantly lower. The price was \$40,000. The Wheeler is still coming in at around \$195,000 which is about \$10,000 more than he anticipated. They are changing the roads. They will do Dennett Road instead of Ford Quint Road.

8. Other Business:

9. Review and Approve Warrants and Correspondence:

Warrant:	January 15, 2019	- \$ 682,598.23
Warrant:	January 22, 2019	- \$ 0.00

Selectman Galemmo motioned to approve the Warrant of January 15, 2019 for the amount of \$682,598.23. Selectman Johnson, Sr. seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0

10. Adjournment:

Selectman Galemmo motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 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 Galemmo

Selectman: Michael Johnson, Sr.