

## Highlights in this Issue

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## TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

This year's budget preparation started back in November of 2016 when all departments, committees and outside agencies were asked to submit their budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year with the goal of a flat or reduced budget. As with every year, we have continued to scrutinize every cost of town government in an effort to reduce the costs of Town government.

The Board of Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending a budget that is increased from the previous year. They are aware of the difficulty placed on residents with increased tax burden so they have worked diligently to contain costs while maintaining service levels that citizens demand. To reduce the impact on the tax rate, the Selectmen and Budget Committee are recommending utilization of undesignated fund balance and designated fund balance. On the positive side, the Town expects to see additional tax revenue from real estate taxes, excise taxes and the BETE program to assist in offsetting the increase in the amount of taxation dollars needed for the budget.

There are many increases to costs which are outlined in the pages of this newsletter including Capital Improvement costs, etc.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is \$4,414,652.00 or a 4.02% INCREASE from last year. Department heads made a concerted effort to contain all costs at last year's levels while continuing the range of services provided by the Town, however, continued increase in costs and services does not permit the town to decrease the budget for the ensuing year to provide the level of services citizens demand. This has resulted in the

operations side of the budget increasing by 2.76% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has to a 10.79% increase however, many of the planned capital projects have reserve funds saved over that past few years that will be utilized. **If approved as presented, this budget will not have any effect on the tax rate.** The Town is utilizing undesignated fund balance to keep the level of taxation down and excess overlay appropriated during last year's budget.

Also on this year's ballot are three questions to amend the Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Ordinance. The Planning Board, Agricultural-Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen have been reviewing the ordinances and Comprehensive Plan and have recommended certain amendments to streamline and clarify the ordinances. Both the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen are unanimously supporting the amendments presented to the voters as they represent important changes that are needed. I encourage all citizens to review the proposed changes and decide whether these are in the best interest of the town as a whole. If you feel that it is, then vote YES. If you believe that this is not the best path for North Berwick, vote NO. Either way, these are important issues that should be decided by the entire town and all are encouraged to vote on Town Meeting day.

There are also the need to elect officers for the next year and they candidates are listed within the newsletter for voter consideration.

I encourage all citizens to review the newsletter to understand the issues that you will be asked to vote on and vote in the best interest of the Town and quality of life that we enjoy. *Dwayne*

**TOWN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:  
MORNING SESSION –  
REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AND ELECTIONS**



This year, the Town will open the polls for the morning session referendum questions at 8:00 am with polls closing at 1:00 pm. If you cannot vote during this time frame, you are encouraged to get an absentee ballot from the Town Clerk so that you have the opportunity to have your vote counted. Absentee Ballots can be obtained by contacting Chris at 676-3353 x 1. The last day to vote via absentee ballot is Tuesday April 4, 2017.

**Please remember that you can bring this newsletter in to assist you in your voting.**

All the proposed changes can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town's website: [www.townofnorthberwick.org](http://www.townofnorthberwick.org).

**THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND PLANNING BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND THE  
APPROVAL OF ALL THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS.**

*Note: Strike through language to be removed from the ordinance and  
underlined language to be added to the ordinance.*

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

**ADD TO ARTICLE 3.2 DEFINITIONS**

**Chicken** - Common domesticated fowl (*Gallus domesticus*) widely raised for meat and eggs.

**ADD TO ARTICLE 4.3 LAND USE TABLES:**

**Article 4.3 Land Uses Table - Pages 4-11A**

**LAND USES**

KEY: NO = Not permitted YES = Permitted NA = Not Applicable CU = Conditional Use Permit Required  
CEO = Code Enforcement Officer Permit Required (see Section 6.8 for details of Planning Board and CEO reviews)

Village Center	Village A,B	Resrce protect	Shorel'd Lim.Res	Shorel'd Stream	Shorel'd General	Residen Dists.	Farm/ Forest	Commc'l Dist.	Commc'l II	Indust. Dist.
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<b>RURAL</b>	YES	YES	CEO	CEO	CEO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Agriculture: Non-livestock, nurseries, gardening											
Agriculture: livestock	NO	CEO	CEO	CEO	NO	NO	CEO	YES	CEO	CEO	CEO
<u>Agriculture: chickens</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>YES</u>
Animal breeding or care	NO	CEO	NO	NO	NO	NO	CEO	CEO	NO	NO	NO
Seasonal sale of produce & plants raised locally	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Private recreational facilities including parks, playgrounds, golf courses, driving ranges, & swimming pools, but excluding campgrounds	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	NO
Publicly owned Recreational Facilities	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Campgrounds	NO	NO	NO	CU	NO	NO	CU	CU	NO	NO	CU
Timber Harvesting	NO	CU	CU	CU	CU	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES
Earth Removal	NO	NO	NO	CU	NO	NO	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU

Harvesting of wild crops for profit (Timber harvesting not included)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Kennels	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	CU	CU	NO	NO	NO
Boarding kennels	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	CU	NO	NO	NO
Veterinary Clinics	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	CU	CU	NO	NO	NO
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	YES	YES	NO	CEO	NO	CU	YES(1)	YES(1)	CU	YES	NO
Single family dwelling											
Two family dwelling	YES	YES	NO	CU	NO	CU	YES(1)	YES(1)	CU	YES	NO
Affordable 1 & 2 family dwellings(4)	NO	CU(3)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	CU	CU	NO
Multi family dwelling (4)	YES(4)	CU(4)	NO	CU	NO	CU(4)	CU(1)	CU(1)	CU	CU	NO
In-Law Accessory Apartment	CU	CU	NO	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU	NO

4-11A

**ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW SECTION TO ARTICLE 5 – PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**ARTICLE 5.2.22 CHICKENS**

The purpose of this section is to provide standards for the keeping of chickens (Gallus domesticus). This section is intended to enable residents to keep a small number of female chickens while limiting the potential adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

**A. Keeping of chickens**

1. Six (6) chickens shall be allowed per single-family property for each 40,000 sq. ft. of lot size.
2. In all multi-family complexes, chickens shall be allowed only with the written consent of all dwelling unit owners or tenants and the property owner.
3. On single-family and multi-family lots having more than 40,000 sq. ft., for each additional 40,000 sq. ft. of lot area, an additional 6 chickens may be kept.
4. Only female chickens are permitted. No male chickens (roosters) are permitted.
5. All properties zoned Farm and Forest do not have to meet the requirements listed above.

**B. Enclosures** - Chickens must be in an enclosed, secure facility (i.e. henhouse, coop, pen) at all times. At no time shall chickens be kept in dwellings or in attached accessory structures. Facilities for keeping chickens shall be designed, constructed, and located on the site in the rear of the property and shall not be located within ten (10) feet of the rear or side property line. Facilities shall be located on the site in a manner that will minimize the adverse effects upon the surrounding properties and shall provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens. Among the factors that shall be considered in determining whether such facilities are placed on the property in a manner that will minimize the adverse effects of such facilities on surrounding properties are: the relationship of the use to the topography; natural and planted horticultural screening; the direction and intensity of the prevailing winds; the relationship and location of residences and public facilities on nearby properties and other similar factors. In those instances where there is insufficient area to the rear of the property for enclosures, the Code Enforcement Officer may issue a permit for the enclosures to be located in the front of the property provided that the standards contained herein and all applicable zoning setbacks for the Zoning District are met.

**C. Waste storage and removal** - Provision shall be made for the storage and removal, or composting of chicken manure.

**D. Odor and noise** - All other relevant "good neighbor" performance standards in this Ordinance (such as for noise and odor) shall also be observed.

- a. Odors from chickens, chicken manure, or other chicken-related substances should not be perceptible beyond their property boundaries.
- b. Noise from chickens shall not be a disturbance to abutters.

**Intent:** *To allow domesticated chickens in all zones, except shoreland zones, and to provide performance standards for the keeping of the chickens.*

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

**CURRENTLY READS:**

**6.1.7** For construction of a principal or accessory building, application for a building permit must include a plot plan showing the location of proposed and existing structures to assure that setback requirements are satisfied, and a category 3 survey will be required from the applicant or contractor when the footing is inspected. No construction shall be placed upon the footing until the footing has been inspected.

**PROPOSED TO READ:**

**6.1.7** For the construction of a principal or accessory building ~~application for a building permit must include a plot plan showing the location of proposed and existing structures to assure that setback requirements are satisfied, and a category 3 survey will be required from the applicant or contractor when the footing is inspected. No construction shall be placed upon the footing until the footing has been inspected.~~ with a foundation, permit approval shall be granted in two parts: a foundation permit and a building permit. A foundation permit shall be issued by the Code Enforcement Officer upon approval of the building permit application and plans. The building permit shall be issued for the structure upon submission of written documentation from a Maine certified land surveyor to the Code Enforcement Officer showing compliance with the Zoning Ordinance setback requirements. The written documentation shall include a plan stamped by the Maine certified land surveyor which is sufficiently detailed to show that all setback requirements are met and accurately shows the location of all structures on the property. Any building construction, other than foundation (footings, floor and walls), completed prior to submission of surveyor documentation or building permit issuance shall be deemed in violation of this ordinance pursuant to Article 6.7 and subject to fines.

**DELETE THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION IN ARTICLE 3.2 DEFINITIONS:**

~~**Category 3 survey:** A survey done by a registered land surveyor, comparable to a mortgage loan inspection survey, which verifies that property boundaries can be located, and which accurately shows the location of all buildings. The survey is sufficiently detailed to show that all zoning requirements are met, and includes an examination of the current deed of the parcel.~~

*Intent: Amending building permit approval for buildings with foundations into two parts; first part a foundation permit and second part a building permit for the structure itself once certification from a surveyor is provided showing all setback requirements have been met.*

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

**ARTICLE 5.2 CURRENTLY READS:**

**5.2 Submissions.** The pre-application Sketch Plan shall show, in simple sketch form, the proposed layout of streets, lots and other features in relation to existing conditions. The Sketch Plan, should be supplemented with general information to describe or outline the existing conditions of the site and the proposed development, in sufficient detail to allow a meaningful on-site inspection. It is required that the sketch plan be superimposed on or accompanied by a copy of the U.S.G.S topographic map of the area showing the outline of the proposed subdivision.

**PROPOSED TO READ:**

**5.2 Submissions.** The pre-application Sketch Plan shall show, in simple sketch form, the proposed layout of streets, lots and other features in relation to existing conditions. The Sketch Plan, should be supplemented with general information to describe or outline the existing conditions of the site and the proposed development, in sufficient detail to allow a meaningful on-site inspection. It is required that the sketch plan be superimposed on or accompanied by a copy of the U.S.G.S topographic map of the area showing the outline of the proposed subdivision. A digital copy of the sketch plan shall be submitted.

**ARTICLE 6.3 CURRENTLY READS:**

**6.3 Submissions.**

a. The subdivision plan for a Minor Subdivision shall consist of one reproducible, stable based transparent original to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and two copies of one or more maps or drawings drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. Plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres may be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch provided all necessary detail can easily be read. Plans shall be no larger than 24 by 36 inches in size, and shall have a margin of two inches outside of the border lines on the left side for binding and a one-inch margin outside the border along the remaining sides. Space shall be provided for endorsement by the Board. Three copies of all information accompanying the plan shall be submitted.

**PROPOSED TO READ:**

**6.3 Submissions.**

a. The subdivision plan for a Minor Subdivision shall consist of one reproducible, stable based transparent original to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and two copies of one or more maps or drawings drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. Plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres may be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch provided all necessary detail can easily be read. Plans shall be no larger than 24 by 36 inches in size, and shall have a margin of two inches outside of the border lines on the left side for binding and a one-inch margin outside the border along the remaining sides. Space shall be provided for endorsement by the Board. Three Two copies of all information accompanying the plan shall be submitted along with one (1) copy of an 11x17 reduced size plan and a digital copy of the plan, application and information.

**ARTICLE 7.2 CURRENTLY READS:**

**7.2 Submissions**

b. Preliminary Plan. The Preliminary Plan shall be submitted in three copies of one or more maps or drawings which may be printed or reproduced on paper, with all dimensions shown in feet or decimals of a foot. The Preliminary Plan shall be drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. The Board may allow plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres to be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch provided all necessary detail can easily be read. In addition, one copy of the plan shall be reduced. The following information shall be shown on the Preliminary Plan or shall accompany the plan for preliminary approval:

**PROPOSED TO READ:**

**7.2 Submissions**

b. Preliminary Plan. The Preliminary Plan shall be submitted in ~~three~~ two copies of one or more maps or drawings which may be printed or reproduced on paper, with all dimensions shown in feet or decimals of a foot. The Preliminary Plan shall be drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. The Board may allow plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres to be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch provided all necessary detail can easily be read. In addition, ~~one copy of the plan shall be reduced~~ one (1) copy of an 11x17 reduced size plan and a digital copy of the plan, application and information shall be submitted. The following information shall be shown on the Preliminary Plan or shall accompany the plan for preliminary approval:

## ARTICLE 8.2 CURRENTLY READS:

### 8.2 Submissions

The Final Plan shall consist of one or more maps or drawings drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. Plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres may be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch. Plans shall be no larger than 24 by 36 inches in size, and shall have a margin of two inches outside of the border one on the left side for binding and a one inch margin outside the border along the remaining sides. Space shall be reserved thereon for endorsement by the Board. Two reproducible, stable based originals to be submitted, one to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and the second to be submitted to the Planning Board for file, in addition two copies of the Final Plan shall be submitted. Also required one copy of the Final Plan reduced. The application for approval of the Final Plan shall include the following information:

### PROPOSED TO READ:

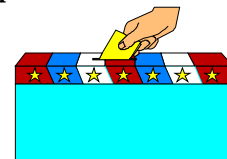
### 8.2 Submissions

The Final Plan shall consist of one or more maps or drawings drawn to a scale of not more than one hundred feet to the inch. Plans for subdivisions containing more than seventy-five acres may be drawn at a scale of not more than two hundred feet to the inch. Plans shall be no larger than 24 by 36 inches in size, and shall have a margin of two inches outside of the border one on the left side for binding and a one inch margin outside the border along the remaining sides. Space shall be reserved thereon for endorsement by the Board. Two reproducible, stable based originals to be submitted, one to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds, and the second to be submitted to the Planning Board for file, in addition two copies of the Final Plan shall be submitted. ~~Also required one copy of the Final Plan reduced. Two copies of all information accompanying the plan shall be submitted along with one (1) copy of an 11x17 reduced size plan and a digital copy of the plan, application and information.~~ The application for approval of the Final Plan shall include the following information:

*Intent: Amend the Subdivision Ordinance submission requirements to include the submission of a digital copy of a proposed subdivision plan along with the required number of paper copies.*



## ELECTIONS



The following positions will be elected this year prior to the annual Town Meeting. The Board of Selectmen encourage all registered voters to get out and vote.

#### **Selectmen, Assessor, and Overseer of the Poor:**

For 3 years (vote for one)  
Charles Galemmo

#### **MSAD #60 School Director:**

For 3 years (vote for one)  
Lynn Manley

#### **Cemetery Trustee:**

For 3 years (vote for two)  
Melissa Pierce  
Amelia Small

#### **Sanitary District Trustee:**

For 3 years (vote for one)  
Maurice Dolbec

#### **Water District Trustee:**

For 3 years (vote for two)  
Carl Works  
James Muthig

#### **Budget Committee Member:**

For 3 years (vote for not more than four)  
Daniel Baker,  
David Bentley  
Pamela Brezak  
Julie Fernee  
Ronald Morrell  
David Southard  
Robert Versocki



**AFTERNOON SESSION**  
**WARRANT ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS:**



**BUDGET COMMITTEE FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Budget Committee has deliberated over the budget requests of the various departments, committees and agencies seeking funding from the Town of North Berwick for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee met on six occasions during the months of February and March and has recommended the FY 2018 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will increase by \$170,809.00 or a 4.02% increase, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$144,964.00, however an higher overlay from last year will reduce this increase to \$64,964.00. Due to expected new valuation, it is anticipated that approval of this budget will not have an impact on the tax rate.

**LD #1 Limitations**

In January of 2005, the Maine Legislature passed a law which in effect caps the amount of taxes a Town may raise without a referendum vote. As part of every Tax Levy cap pursuant to this legislation to ensure that the Town does not exceed the cap. If the Budget Committee's recommendations are followed at Annual Town Meeting the Town of North Berwick will continue to remain under the State of Maine property tax cap by \$987,346.00.

Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2018:

<b>Budget Committee Recommendations</b>		
Appropriations	\$ 4,414,652	
Available Resources		
Excise Tax	\$ 785,000	
Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$ 285,240	
Des. Surplus	\$ 12,500	
Misc. Fees	\$ 293,785	
State Revenue Sharing	\$ 143,000	
Equipment Fund	\$ 63,170	
State Road Aid	\$ 69,500	
Enterprise Fund	\$ 103,050	
Impact Fees		
Subtotal	\$ 2,659,407	
FY18 Recommended Tax Levy		\$ 2,659,407
FY17 Tax Levy		\$ 2,514,443
Increase over FY 2017		\$ 144,964
<b>Tax Limitation Calculations</b>		
Tax Limit Levy FY18		\$ 3,646,753
Balance to be carried		\$ 987,346

**Proposed Expenditures**

**By Department**

	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>% Inc(Dec)</b>
Highway	\$471,730.00	\$505,100.00	7.07%
Capital Improv.	\$669,115.00	\$741,285.00	10.79%
General Gov.	\$906,600.00	\$930,755.00	2.66%
Protection	\$1,481,660.00	\$1,523,820.00	2.84%
Library	\$225,000.00	\$237,000.00	5.33%
Parks and Rec.	\$103,585.00	\$110,640.00	6.81%
Health and Social	\$250,680.00	\$232,731.00	(7.71%)
Other	\$39,558.00	\$37,426.00	(5.70%)
Debt	\$95,915.00	\$95,915.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,243,843.00</b>	<b>\$4,414,652.00</b>	<b>4.02%</b>

**Capital Improvement Budget**

Highway	\$553,000.00	\$508,670.00	(8.71%)
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	new
Police	\$37,215.00	\$34,500.00	(7.87%)
Rescue	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	new
Transfer Station	\$15,000.00	\$13,050.00	(14.94%)
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fire	\$78,900.00	\$130,065.00	64.85%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$669,115.00</b>	<b>\$741,285.00</b>	<b>10.79%</b>

**Proposed Revenues**

Taxation	\$2,514,443.00	\$2,659,407.00	5.76%
State Rev. Sharing	\$142,900.00	\$143,000.00	0.01%
Excise Tax	\$740,230.00	\$785,000.00	6.05%
Equipment Fund	\$118,615.00	\$63,170.00	(87.77%)
Misc. Fees:	\$297,555.00	\$293,785.00	(1.28%)
Road Block Grant:	\$69,500.00	\$69,500.00	0.00%
Enterprise Fund	\$110,900.00	\$103,050.00	(7.62%)
Designated Surplus	\$39,250.00	\$12,500.00	(314.00%)
Undesignated Surplus	\$210,450.00	\$285,240.00	35.55%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,243,843.00</b>	<b>\$4,414,652.00</b>	<b>4.02%</b>

## Budget Overview:

The proposed budget for FY18 calls for a 4.03% increase in funding over FY17. The Board of Selectmen's goal was to keep the operations side of the budget to under a 3% increase from the previous year and the proposed budget represents a 2.76% increase in operational costs. The capital side of the budget is increasing 10.79% in order to meet the Town's capital needs identified in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan. **Even with the increase in budget, if approved, the proposed budget will not have any effect on the Town's current tax rate.**

The main reason is that the town is anticipating receiving additional revenue from the BETE program due to the continued equipment improvements made by Pratt and Whitney as well as additional tax revenue due to the increased residential building within the Town. It is estimated that an additional \$190,000.00 in additional tax revenue and BETE reimbursements will be received. In addition, last year the Town received more BETE reimbursement (\$90,000.00) than expected due to Pratt's expansion and equipment improvements. These funds will be utilized to offset any potential increase in the tax rate caused by the municipal budget while still providing additional revenue for potential increases in funding of the SAD #60 and County Budget. The Town continues to maintain a healthy fiscal approach by maintaining a fund balance equal to more than 90 days of expenditures as recommended by our auditors as well as healthy fund balances within the Town's trusts and dedicated funds. Funds in excess of the 90 day goal are used for future capital projects and this can be seen in the use of Undesignated Fund Balance for many capital items in the proposed budget.

In terms of expenditures, the Town department heads have made a concerted effort to produce budgets that fund the services demanded by citizens at the lowest possible cost while still maintaining our capital equipment and providing competitive salaries and benefits for our employees. The Town has also made a few changes that will lower costs such as:

1. Entering into a new electrical contract that reduces the town electricity costs from 9.9 cents a KW to 6.3 cents a KW for the majority of our accounts and to 4.5 cents for our street light account.
2. The Town has entered into a new three year contract for our telephone service that will save the town approximately \$1,200.00 a year.
3. The Town has entered into a contract with Oceanside Rubbish for the hauling of the Town's waste from the Transfer Station to the various destinations. This is anticipated to save the town approximately \$8,000.00 a year in operation costs and \$85,000.00 in capital costs.
4. The Town entered into a paving contract that reduces our per ton cost for pavement by \$4.00 a ton for the next year.

There are increase costs that the town continues to see in the area of insurances (health, dental and workers compensation) as well as increases in the Town's retirement programs. The employees of the Town are dedicated to providing the best possible service to our citizens and are invaluable to the operation of the Town. The Selectmen continue to try and pay a competitive wage to our town employees and to that end, positions are reviewed within the regional market and increases are made to those positions who have fallen behind in the market. The Town typically pays at the bottom to mid level of the market for the majority of our positions. To keep pace, the Board of Selectmen has voted to increase wages for next year by a 2% cost of living increase.

The Town produces a Capital Improvement Plan to provide a means for evaluating facility and infrastructure projects and the mechanism for reviewing operating budget projects. The five year Capital Improvement Program is reviewed and revised yearly with ten year projections included to anticipate and plan for projects involving public facility improvements and major equipment purchases. By planning and maintaining the town's infrastructure, facilities and equipment, it balances the needs and the Town's financial ability on both a short and long term basis. Voters will note the capital improvements planned for this year within the pages of this newsletter along with creating funds for capital improvements planned for in the future such as a replacement Wheeler for the Public Works Department and an Ambulance for the Rescue Squad.



## FY18 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

In an effort to keep the town's infrastructure and equipment in good working order and replacing only those items that are essential for operations. The Capital Improvement side of the budget is proposed to increase 10.79%. The Board of Selectmen proposed and the Budget Committee is recommending the following Capital Improvement Budget.

**Fire Department:** This year there are four CIP projects for the Fire Department:

***Pumper:*** Six years ago the Town authorized the purchase of a new fire pumper to be financed over a ten year period. This is the fifth payment on the bond for the fire pumper.



***SCBA:*** The air tanks that the Fire Department volunteers use have a defined life of 15 years. After the fifteen year period, the tanks can no longer be utilized as breathing apparatus for the volunteers. In an effort to decrease the impact of the purchase of replacement air tanks, the Fire Chief has been replacing the tanks over a four year period. This is the last year in the replacement schedule to replace the SCBA tanks. \$13,775.00

***Tanker:*** At the 2015 Town Meeting, the voters approved the purchase of a tanker that will hold 3,000 gallons of water for utilization in the area of town currently not served by the hydrant system. The Town took possession of the tanker in February of 2016 .



### ***Fire Station Planning:***

For more than twenty years, the Fire Department has been discussing the possibility to either expanding the current Central Fire Station or looking to relocate the Fire Station to accommodate the growing needs of the Department. After much discussion and inclusion in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan, it was decided to start planning for a new station this year. The existing Central Station has served the Town admirably but it has a few issues that are difficult to resolve. The Station built in 1927 was not constructed for the larger fire fighting apparatus that the Town purchases and space is severely limited within the station. Currently when placing vehicles in the central station, drivers deal with inches to get the vehicles in the doors and station. In addition, the location in the downtown area is difficult for fire fighters to respond to fires due to the lack of parking and the ability to get the apparatus out of the village area due to traffic.

The Town is requesting funds to begin the planning stage of a new facility. A parcel of land located adjacent to the Rescue Squad building on Lebanon Road is owned by the Town and we would like to perform the necessary engineering studies and surveying to see if this location would be suitable for a new central station. If it is, then plans would need to be developed to determine what type of facility would be constructed and what that cost would be so that voters could have the necessary information to act upon a new facility. Many questions need to be asked and answered: What would we do with the current Central station? Discussions have included creating a training center for the Fire and Rescue Squads within this building and still having a fire fighting presence in the village area. Can we build a facility to house both Fire and Rescue equipment? The current Rescue Building is also cramped for space and it would be a logical fit for the new facility to be able to accommodate both emergency services. If this happens, what becomes of the Rescue Building? Can we make improvement to the current Rescue Building for living quarters and offices and build a facility to simply house the equipment? All these questions and more need to be answered before the Town moves forward with a plan that will serve the town for years to come. The Town is proposing to appropriate \$50,000.000 to begin the process of planning for a new facility for the Fire Department and inclusion of the Rescue Squad within the facility.





**Police Cruiser:** This year, the police department is requesting a replacement cruiser. For several years, the Town purchased Chevy Impalas as our police cruisers, however, Chevy is no longer producing the Impala police package. Once again the Police Department is planning on replacing one of the Impalas with a Ford Interceptor SUV.

Many police department have begun to move their fleet of Police Vehicles towards the SUV model which allows for the department to respond to emergencies in all types of weather. Estimated cost - \$34,500.00

**Ambulance:** Pursuant to the Town's Capital Improvement Plan, a replacement ambulance was to be purchased this fiscal year, however, in 2016, the Rescue Squad purchased a used second ambulance with funds of the Rescue Squad. The purchase of this second ambulance will allow the town to postpone replacement of the primary ambulance until the year 2020. In anticipation of this replacement, the Town is proposing to place funds in a dedicated account towards the cost of a new ambulance to be purchased in 2020. The Town is proposing to place \$25,000.00 this year and will be requesting funds in subsequent years as we approach the purchased of the ambulance in 2020.



**Public Works:** The Town is proposing to purchase two pieces of equipment to assist in the maintenance of the roads as well as repairing the salt/sand shed roof. The repairs that are planned include:



**Wheeler:** It is planned to replaced the 1996 Ford Dump Truck in the year 2020 with a wheeler. In anticipation of this large purchase, the Town is proposing to start placing funds into a dedicated account to assist in the purchase of the estimated \$190,000.00 piece of equipment. This year, the town is requesting \$45,000.00 be placed in the wheeler fund.

**Loader:** At last year's town meeting, voters approved the purchase of a new CAT loader on a lease purchase agreement not to exceed 5 years in length. The town was able to negotiate the purchase price and trade in value to reduce the lease term to a four year term and stay under the \$30,000.00 budgeted yearly appropriation.



**Garage Addition:** Over the years, the Town Public Works has utilized the old forestry shed located between the Highway Garage and Rescue Building as a dry storage shed for items such as barricades, signs, sign posts, etc. This shed was given to the town by the Forestry Department back in the 1970's and was originally utilized a storage for our Police Department prior to the Municipal Building renovations. The shed has fallen into disrepair to the point that it is not advantageous for the town to repair the building. The Public Works Department also needs additional storage that will allow the Town to put all of the necessary items necessary for Highway maintenance into one

location and be protected by the elements. It is proposed to add an additional 24' x 30' bay to the back unheated garage and relocate all the storage items into a central location for utilization by the Public Works Crew. This is estimated to cost \$35,000.00.

# HIGHWAY PROJECTS

## FY2018 PROPOSED ROAD CIP

**PROJECTS:** The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget for this year is proposed to be \$405,000.00. In addition to making the \$111,123.00 payment on the road bond approved four years ago, the following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

**Diamond Hill Road:** The Town will continue the three year road improvement project on Diamond Hill Road. This year the phase will consist of base paving the newly graveled section from Beech Ridge Road to Governor Goodwin Road. In addition, the Town will reconstruct the short section of Diamond Hill Road from Governor Goodwin Road to the Berwick Townline. This reconstruction will consist of grinding the pavement, adding base gravel, ditching of the road and then installing the base pavement layer. The estimated cost of this phase is \$148,250.00. The final phase that will be completed in FY 2019 will consist of surface pavement on both sections of road.

**Buffum Road:** It is planned to make drainage improvements then shim and overlay the entire Road. Estimated cost of the project is: \$147,000.00.

**Church Street:** It is planned to reconstruct approximately 845 feet of Church Avenue. The Water District is planning on upgrading the water main in Church Avenue and the Public Works Crew will work in coordination with the Water District. The Planned improvements include grinding the pavement, installation of the new water main by the Water District and then the addition of gravel base and paving of the road. Estimated cost of the project is \$34,500.00.

**Sidewalk:** It is planned to place \$5,000.00 into the sidewalk account for future repairs to the sidewalk network.

### **Transfer Station Improvements**

This year, the Town is proposing three Capital Projects for the Transfer Station.

**Recycling Compactor Relocation:** For years the town has sorted the recyclables at the Transfer Station in an effort to generate the maximum amount of income from the recycled products. Over the past few years, the recycling market has become increasingly difficult to generate income on the products that the Town recycles. Currently the only products that the Town receives income from on a consistent basis is metal and mixed paper and all other recycling products the town either pays to recycle or gives them away for at no cost. However, the mixed paper market is not performing well and prices are anticipated to go from a revenue to a paying commodity. If the markets continue as they have been, it does not make financial sense for the Town to continue to sort materials and expend labor costs to have to pay to get rid of our recycling materials when we can place them all together and the cost to the town would be the same as if we did sort the materials. Many communities have switched over to a single sort recycling process where the town combines all the recycled products and then sends them to a facility where they are sorted by machine to reduce the cost of the recycling. In anticipation of moving to a single sort process, the town will be relocating our paper/cardboard compactor. The relocation will allow the town to place the compactor below grade, similar to how the trash compactor is situated, so that utilizing the compactor is easier on the residents. The Town will add a slide similar to the trash compactor to assist in feeding the compactor with the recycled materials along with safety improvements to allow easier compacting of the materials. Should the Town make the move to a single sort process, the paper/cardboard compactor could be converted to allow it to receive all the recycled materials.



**New Container and Recycling Building Upgrades:** The town is also proposing to purchase an additional compactor container to assist with hauling of mixed recycled materials. The third item that the town is proposing is the residing of the recycling building to improve the aesthetics and also provide windows for the staff near the paper/cardboard container for easier viewing of the compactor.



## CONSERVATION/AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Do you love to garden? We do! We are your Conservation and Agriculture Committee. We meet every 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 at the Town Hall to discuss potential projects and ideas for our community. Public input is always welcome!

We thought it might be a fun idea to showcase food friendly yards around town. Residents can tell us about their gardening efforts for the 2017 season and receive a sign proclaiming that you have a food friendly yard for all your neighbors to see. We are looking for yards that are growing food or pollinator friendly flora, keeping bees or food animals, leaning towards pesticide free or organic management methods or displaying good soil stewardship.

Please help us connect members of the agricultural community in town by filling out the following questionnaire and dropping it off at Town Hall. The information gathered can help facilitate positive exchanges and ensure needs are met.

### Conservation/Agriculture Commission Survey

*Circle One*

- |   |     |    |
|---|-----|----|
| Do you grow food for your family?   | Yes | No |
| Do you make agricultural products?  | Yes | No |
| Do you raise livestock?   | Yes | No |
| Do you do any of the above commercially?                                  | Yes | No |
| Do you have any extra manure or leaves to share?                          | Yes | No |
| Are you interested in receiving manure or leaves from a local source?     | Yes | No |
| Do you have extra land to rent to a farmer?                               | Yes | No |
| What kind of agricultural efforts would you like to see in North Berwick? |     |    |

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN



The North Berwick Community Garden is now accepting applications for 2017 garden plots. There are a limited number of beds available and are rented on a first come, first served basis. The raised bed plots are 4' x 12' with an annual non-refundable cost of \$25 for residents, \$35 non-residents, and \$15 seniors (60+). Applications and information are available at the North Berwick Town Hall and the DA Hurd Library.

You may also contact: [jeansstover@gmail.com](mailto:jeansstover@gmail.com) [scaler@maine.rr.com](mailto:scaler@maine.rr.com)  
[joanshaw1@yahoo.com](mailto:joanshaw1@yahoo.com) [dbaker4@maine.rr.com](mailto:dbaker4@maine.rr.com)  
[jdennett@maine.rr.com](mailto:jdennett@maine.rr.com)

## NORTH BERWICK SUMMER CAMP

The North Berwick Summer Camp program offers summertime recreational activities for North Berwick youth ages 5-13 years old. The program incorporates team sports, games, crafts, and theme days and weeks. Campers will also go on quality field trips during the week. Camp will take place at the North Berwick Community Center on Lebanon Rd. The North Berwick Recreation Director is on-site most days. The Town has a very qualified staff and all are certified in First Aid/CPR. Resident cost: \$650.00 per child Non-resident \$700.00 per person for the entire 6 weeks, all field trips and a camp t-shirt. Dates: Tuesday, July 5th through Friday, August 11th, 2017 from 9am-3pm. Before and after care is available for an additional fee. The minimum number of campers to operate the program will be 40 campers with a maximum of 85 campers.

All you need to secure a spot is a \$25.00 non-refundable deposit.

Don't wait too long!!

For more detailed information on the Summer Camp Program please go to the Town Website at [www.townofnorthberwick.org](http://www.townofnorthberwick.org).



Accepting registrations beginning April 1, 2017

### Sign-Up Dates:

April 12th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.

May 24th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.



## PARKS AND RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

### North Berwick Fall Soccer Program



#### Sign Up Dates:

Wednesday, May 24, 2017 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday, June 28, 2017 5:30pm to 7:00pm

Monday, August 1, 2017 5:30pm to 7:00pm

At the N.B. Community Center

No sign-ups accepted after August 1st to allow time to coordinate the ordering of jerseys, as well as, ordering the equipment and field items required. Thank you for your understanding.



### Earth Day Saturday, April 22, 2017

This year we will be having some activities for Earth Day on Saturday, April 23rd, 2016. It may consist of games, activities, crafts, etc. all related to Earth Day. Please dress for messy activities and for outside activities. We are also looking to form some small groups to perform roadside clean-up. Get a group together!

This event and the activities also depend on the amount of snow and/or mud we still have by the date!

More info will be sent home with the children of North Berwick, the town website and facebook when it has been decided. You can also call the Rec. Office.



### Easter Event

Saturday, April 15, 2017

Noon - 1:30pm

Community Center

Ages: Pre-k to 3rd grade

Each spring the Easter Bunny hops into North Berwick and hides several eggs for the children at the North Berwick Community Center. He comes the Saturday before Easter Sunday. He hides enough eggs for three age groups of egg seekers, does a meet and greet and has a photo opportunity. The eggs contain candy, trinkets or prize numbers to be redeemed. After opening the eggs, all are welcome to enjoy some refreshments. There will also be a few games to play. We are always looking for folks to bake some goodies for the event and volunteers to help with the other activities. Egg hunts start at Noon sharp followed by other activities. Ages Pre-K, Kind-1st and 2nd -3rd grade egg hunts. We will hold the Easter Egg Hunt rain, shine, snow or mud, so dress accordingly.

Egg hunts start at NOON -- BRING YOUR BASKET!

### ***WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PARKS AND RECREATION THIS YEAR?***

Check out the yearly Activity Booklet available at the Town Hall and Community Center. You can also check it out on our website; [townofnorthberwick.org](http://townofnorthberwick.org) under Parks and Rec.

It is full of information about Parks and Recreation activities as well as local non-profit groups in North Berwick.



## ADOPT A CEMETERY PROGRAM



The Adopt a Cemetery program is designed to save taxpayers money by not having to hire companies and individuals to maintain the Veteran's cemeteries in the Community. The program is designed where individuals, families or organizations can adopt a cemetery and maintain that cemetery between May and October of every year. State Law dictates that "municipality in which said burying ground is located shall keep in good condition and repair, all graves, headstones, monuments or markers designating the burial place of said Revolutionary soldiers or sailors or soldiers or sailors who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps in any war and shall keep the grass suitably cut and trimmed on those graves from May 1st to September 30th of each year."

All those interested in this program are asked to send in the form prior to April 15, 2017.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK  
2017 ADOPT-A-CEMETERY PROGRAM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to \_\_\_\_\_ Adopt Cemetery # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Willing to have the Town assign a cemetery

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Map of Cemeteries available at the Town Office)**

Whitehouse Murray(#4), Frost(#5), Gupti ll (#7), Grant-Hayes (#9), Libby-Hanson (#12), Dillingham(#14), Stackpole(#15), Brackett(#20), Pray (#21), Hurd(#22), Rogers (#23), Fenderson(#25), Remick(#26), Hurd-Staple(#27), Fernald(#28), Libby(#29), Hanscom-Brackett(#30), Goodwin(#32), Abbott(#33), Nowell(#34), Chadbourne (#37), Nowell(#40), Junkins (#47), Weymouth(#54), Johnson-Nutter(#56), Fernald (#57), Clark(#58), Stillings(#59), Hall(#60), Brackett(#67), Hanscom(#70), Abbott(#73), Staples(#77), Staple-Hurd(#78), Young(#88), Randall(#98), Hubbard(#99), Twombly(#104), Chadbourne(#107), Hill(#109), Hartford-Guptill(#120), Quint(#124), Ford-Goodwin(#129), Allen (#130), Ford (#131), Billings(#136), Ford(#138), Morrill(#143), Grant(#147), Cutts(#155), Weymouth(#159), Hammond(#161), Applebee(#164), Hurd(#166), Nunn-Merrill(#167), Weymouth(#174), Ricker (#181), Abbott (#183), Breton (#186), Chadbourne(#187)and Wood(#188).

# TAX CLUB

The Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the continuation of a Tax Club for the 2018 Fiscal Year. The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their property taxes over the course of the year through a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been completed and commitment set.

The Tax Club works very similar to a Christmas Club Account in that your tax bill is evenly divided over the year into a number of payments that the property owner chooses so long as all taxes paid have been received by June 15 of the fiscal year. In most cases, the payments would be divided over no more than a ten month period starting in September and ending in June. The start date of September is used due to the setting of

commitment by the Board to determine the actual taxes owed by the property owner. The payments are made without any interest charges accruing so long as the payments are received in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The agreement is written to reflect the property owner's budget. If the property owner does not keep up with the payments then all interest that would have been due must be paid in full.

Any property owner who would like additional information or would like to join the tax club should fill out the following application and drop it off at the Town Office and someone will contact you to finalize your application:



## TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK TAX CLUB



**RULES AND REGULATIONS:** The Tax Club of the Town of North Berwick will be conducted on a payment plan approved by the Town and the individual taxpayer not to exceed 10 months in duration. Taxpayers must make payments according to the Tax Club coupon book issued to them no later than the 15th day of the month in order to qualify for the "No Interest" benefit.

Payments will be made at the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, 21 Main Street, North Berwick, Maine 03906 or mailed to the Tax Collector's Office, Town of North Berwick, P.O. Box 422, North Berwick, Maine 03906.

Payments received after the due date will be subject to paying all back interest and fees if applicable.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Map: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot: \_\_\_\_\_

*I have read the above and do hereby agree to join the  
Town of North Berwick Tax Club.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed: \_\_\_\_\_

### TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN

Fiscal Year: 20\_\_\_\_ Tax Bill: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Payments: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount per Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, April 8, 2017  
Philip Hussey Auditorium  
Noble High School**

**Elections & Referendum Questions – 8:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Budget Meeting Session – 1:30 pm  
GET OUT AND VOTE!!!**

**Annual Town Reports**

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, March 31, 2017. Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

Town of North Berwick  
21 Main Street  
P.O. Box 422  
North Berwick, Maine 03906

[www.townofnorthberwick.com](http://www.townofnorthberwick.com)

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