

Highlights in this Issue

- Town Meeting
- Referendum Questions

- Budget Review
- Election Candidates
- Budget Highlights



TOWN MANAGER COLUMN

This year's budget preparation started back in November of 2017 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 and limit 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 BE'IE 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 both Operational and Capital Improvement costs.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is \$4,572,305.00 or a 3.57% INCREASE from last year. Department heads made a huge 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 2.97% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget has to a 6.57% 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 have a minimal effect on the tax rate. The Town is also proposing to utilize undesignated fund balance to keep the level of taxation down. It is estimated that the tax rate will increase approximately 5-10 cents or \$25.00 per year for the average property owner.

Also on this year's ballot are three questions to amend the Zoning Ordinance, and Subdivision Ordinance. The Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen have been reviewing the ordinances and Comprehensive Plan and have recommended certain amendments to streamline and clarify the ordinances. 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 believe 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 3, 2018.

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.

**THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND PLANNING BOARD UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMEND THE
APPROVAL OF QUESTION 1 AND 3 OF THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS.**

**REFERENDUM QUESTION #2: UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING BOARD AND
RECOMMENDED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BY A VOTE OF 3-1-1.**

*Note: Strike through language to be removed from the ordinance and
bold/underline language to be added to the ordinance.*

Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 3.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to define Kennels” be enacted?

Current Definition

Kennels: the term "kennel" shall apply to three or more dogs owned singly or jointly and living on a single premise, for any purpose, including but not limited to breeding, hunting, show, training, hobby, trials or exhibition purposes. This definition shall not apply to dogs under the age of six months.

Proposed Definition

Kennels: the term "kennel" shall apply to ~~three~~ five or more dogs owned singly or jointly and living on a single premise, for any purpose, including but not limited to breeding, hunting, show, training, hobby, trials or exhibition purposes. This definition shall not apply to dogs under the age of six months.

Intent: To amend the Town of North Berwick kennel definition of the number of dogs that determine a kennel to align with the State of Maine definition.

Question #2: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 6.3.9 of the Zoning Ordinance to state specific limitations on Growth Management Permits” be enacted?

Currently Reads:

6.3.9. No more than 6 growth management permits shall be issued for dwelling units within a single subdivision during each fiscal year. Additional permits for such subdivision may be issued in succeeding years in accordance with section 6.3.7. The limitations contained in this subsection shall not apply to subdivisions approved prior to the enactment of this Ordinance or which have had at least one substantive review by the Planning Board prior to the enactment of this Ordinance but growth management permits issued for such subdivisions shall be counted against the maximum number of permits issued each year as provided in section 6.3.4.

Proposed to Read:

6.3.9. Specific Limitations on Growth Management Permits – Subdivisions; Apartment Buildings.

a. **Subdivisions in Rural Residential Areas:** No more than 6 growth management permits per year shall be issued for dwelling units within a single subdivision located in the Rural Residential Areas: Farm and Forest and Shoreland Limited Residential Zoning District during each fiscal year. Additional permits for such subdivision may be issued in succeeding years in accordance with section 6.3.7.

b. **Apartment Buildings:** No more than 6 growth management permits per year shall be issued for dwelling units within an approved apartment building located in any zoning district.

c. **Subdivisions in Designated Growth Areas:** No more than 12 growth management permits, or the number of growth management permits equal to no more than 60% of the total number of lots within a single subdivision, whichever number is greater, shall be issued for dwelling units within a single subdivision during each fiscal year in the Designated Growth Areas; Village A, Village B, Village Center, Village C Overlay, Residential I, and Residential II Zoning Districts of the Town. Additional permits for such subdivision may be issued in succeeding years in accordance with section 6.3.7.

d. **Subdivision growth permit restrictions:** The total number of growth management permits issued for apartments and subdivisions located in any zoning district shall not exceed 55% of the total number of growth management permits being issued in a single fiscal year as determined pursuant to section 6.3.4. If the number of growth management permits issued for non-subdivision lots, on a first come, first serve basis, exceeds 45% of the total number of growth management permits being issued in a single fiscal year, then the maximum number of growth management permits allocated for apartments and subdivisions (i.e., 55% of the total number for the fiscal year) shall be reduced accordingly to accommodate a proportionately greater number of non-subdivision allocated permits. In no instance shall the total number of growth management permits issued within a fiscal year exceed the number established by the Board of Selectmen pursuant to section 6.3.4.

e. **Previously approved subdivisions:** The limitations contained in this subsection shall not apply to subdivisions approved prior to the enactment of this Ordinance (April 10, 2004) or which have had at least one substantive review by the Planning Board prior to the enactment of this Ordinance but growth management permits issued for such subdivisions shall be counted against the maximum number of permits issued each year as provided in section 6.3.4.

Intent: The intent of these proposed changes is to allocate a greater number of growth management permits per year for subdivisions located within designated growth areas and to place limitations on the number of growth management permits per year to be issued for subdivisions located within rural residential areas and for approved apartment buildings located in any zoning district. The proposed amendment also places a total cap on the number of growth management permits issued per year for subdivision dwelling units, and allows that cap to be reduced further in the event that the total number of growth management permits issued for non-subdivision lots, on a first come, first serve basis, exceeds 45% of the total number of growth management permits to be issued in a single fiscal year, as determined pursuant to section 6.3.4. (As of July 1, 2017, the total number of growth management permits allowed per year is 45 permits.)

Question #3: Shall an ordinance entitled, “An Ordinance Amending Section 5.1, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 6.2, 7.1, and 8.1 of the Subdivision Ordinance to fully described the establishment of the Escrow Account and how to determine the escrow cost.” be enacted?

Currently Reads:

Article 5

5.1 Procedure

- a. Applicant presentation and submission of sketch plans;
- b. Question and answer period. Board makes specific suggestions to incorporated by the applicant into subsequent submissions;
- c. Scheduling of on-site inspection.

5.4 Rights not Vested. The submittal or review of the pre-application sketch plan shall not be considered the initiation of the review process for the purposes of bringing the plan under the protection of Title 1, M.R.S.A, section 302.

Article 6

6.2 Procedure

- b. All applications for Final Plan approval for Minor Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$80.00 payable by check to the municipality. If a public hearing is deemed necessary by the Board, an additional fee shall be required to cover the additional costs of advertising and postal notification.

Article 7

7.1 Procedure

- b. All applications for Preliminary Plan approval for a major Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit, plus the costs of advertising and postal notification, payable by check to the Municipality. In addition, an administrative fee in the amount of 2% of the estimated cost of the project (including land, site improvement and projected building value) shall be placed in escrow in a bank in the Town of North Berwick for unrestricted use by the Municipal Officials, Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board in order to adequately review the subdivision plans, and defray any other consultants fees incurred by the Town as a result of reviewing the submitted plans and overseeing the construction of the project. This requirement is separate from any performance guarantees required under Article XII. Any funds remaining after the project is complete shall be returned to the applicant with any interest which may have accrued.

Article 8

8.1 Procedure

- b. All applications for Final Plan approval for Major Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit payable by check to the municipality. If a public hearing is deemed necessary by the Board, an additional charge shall be required to cover the costs of advertising and postal notification.

Proposed to Read:

Article 5

5.1 Procedure

- a. Applicant presentation and submission of sketch plans;
- b. Question and answer period. Board makes specific suggestions to be incorporated by the applicant into subsequent submissions;
- c. Scheduling of on-site inspection.
- d. Establishment of contour interval.
- e. Establishment of Escrow Account.

5.4 Notification. Upon receipt of a Preapplication Sketch Plan, the Planning Board shall notify the Planning Consultant and Engineering Firm selected by the Board of Selectmen to assist in the review process and obtain an estimate of the cost of review for the escrow account.

5.5 Escrow Account. The Planning Board shall establish an escrow account to cover all administrative costs of the review of the subdivision. The escrow amount shall include, but not be limited to, the costs related to the per lot review costs defined in article 6.2.b, 7.1.b and 8.1.b, the costs of public hearing advertising and abutter postal notification, the costs of all engineering review by the Town's engineering firm, the costs of all planning review by the Town's planning consultant plus 10%. (Should actual review costs exceed the estimated costs, continued review of the subdivision shall be tabled until additional escrow funds are received.) The escrow shall be placed in a bank selected by the Town of North Berwick for unrestricted use by the Municipal Officials, Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board in order to adequately review the subdivision plans, and defray any other consultants fees incurred by the Town as a result of reviewing the submitted plans and overseeing the construction of the project. This requirement is separate from any performance guarantees required under Article 12. The Town shall prepare a financial statement depicting the costs incurred during the review of the subdivision and any funds remaining after the project is complete shall be returned to the applicant with any interest which may have accrued.

5.4 5.6 Rights not Vested. The submittal or review of the pre-application sketch plan shall not be considered the initiation of the review process for the purposes of bringing the plan under the protection of Title 1, M.R.S.A, section 302.

Article 6

6.2 Procedure

- b. ~~Minor subdivision review costs shall be \$80.00. All applications for Final Plan approval for Minor Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$80.00 payable by check to the municipality. If a public hearing is deemed necessary by the Board, an additional fee shall be required to cover the additional costs of advertising and postal notification.~~

Town Reports

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, March 30, 2017. Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, April 7, 2018.

Article 7

7.1 Procedure

b. ~~Preliminary Plan review costs shall be \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit. All applications for Preliminary Plan approval for a major Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit, plus the costs of advertising and postal notification, payable by check to the Municipality. In addition, an administrative fee in the amount of 2% of the estimated cost of the project (including land, site improvement and projected building value) shall be placed in escrow in a bank in the Town of North Berwick for unrestricted use by the Municipal Officials, Code Enforcement Officer and Planning Board in order to adequately review the subdivision plans, and defray any other consultants fees incurred by the Town as a result of reviewing the submitted plans and overseeing the construction of the project. This requirement is separate from any performance guarantees required under Article XII. Any funds remaining after the project is complete shall be returned to the applicant with any interest which may have accrued.~~

Article 8

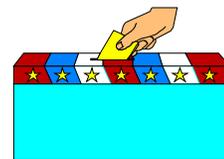
8.1 Procedure

b. ~~Final Plan review costs shall be \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit. All applications for Final Plan approval for Major Subdivision shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$50.00 per lot or dwelling unit payable by check to the municipality. If a public hearing is deemed necessary by the Board, an additional charge shall be required to cover the costs of advertising and postal notification.~~

Intent: To amend the Subdivision Ordinance to fully described the establishment of the Escrow Account and how to determine the escrow cost.



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 two)
Jonathan Hall
Michael Johnson, Jr.
Mark Reed

MSAD #60 School Director:
For 3 years (vote for one)
Astrida Schaeffer

Cemetery Trustee:
For 3 years (vote for two)
Beverly Gray
Rebecca Reed

Water District Trustee:
For 3 years (vote for two)
Dan Baker
Steve Gray
Anita Johnson

Sanitary District Trustee:
For 3 years (vote for two)
Daniel Burbank
Julie Fernee
Owen Thyng

Budget Committee Member:
For 3 years (vote for not more than four)
Stan Cowan
Gregg Drew
Bruce Hackett
Jeremiah Johnson
Stephen Schaeffer



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 four occasions during the months of February and March and has recommended the FY 2019 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will increase by \$157,653.00 or a 3.57% increase, and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will increase by \$159,688.00. Due to expected new valuation, it is anticipated that approval of this budget will have a minimal impact on the tax rate estimated at 5-10 cents or approximately \$25.00 per year for the average homeowner.

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 \$1,126,311.00.

Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2019:

<u>Budget Committee Recommendations</u>	
Appropriations	\$4,572,305.00
Available Resources	
Excise Tax	\$820,450.00
Fund Balance (Surplus)	\$196,250.00
Des. Surplus	\$10,000.00
Misc. Fees	\$320,590.00
State Revenue Sharing	\$137,000.00
Equipment Fund	\$77,920.00
State Road Aid	\$70,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$120,500.00
Impact Fees	\$0.00
 Subtotal	 \$2,819,095.00
 Increase over FY2018	 \$159,688.00

Tax Limitation Calculations

Tax Limit	\$3,945,406.00
Balance to be carried	\$1,126,311.00

Proposed Expenditures

By Department

	FY18	FY19	% Inc(Dec)
Highway	\$505,100.00	\$518,450.00	2.64%
Capital Imp.	\$741,285.00	\$789,998.00	6.57%
General Gov.	\$930,755.00	\$977,487.00	5.02%
Protection	\$1,523,820.00	\$1,548,758.00	1.64%
Library	\$237,000.00	\$243,000.00	2.53%
Parks and Rec.	\$110,640.00	\$112,495.00	1.68%
Health and Social	\$232,731.00	\$248,595.00	6.82%
Other	\$37,426.00	\$37,607.00	0.48%
Debt	\$95,915.00	\$95,915.00	0.00%
TOTAL	\$4,414,652.00	\$4,572,305.00	3.57%

Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$508,670.00	\$508,670.00	0.00%
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
General Gov.	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00	(66.67%)
Police	\$34,500.00	\$39,250.00	10.87%
Rescue	\$25,000.00	\$65,000.00	206.00%
Transfer Station	\$13,050.00	\$17,000.00	30.27%
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fire	\$130,065.00	\$140,078.00	7.70%
TOTAL	\$741,285.00	\$789,998.00	6.57%

Proposed Revenues

Taxation	\$2,659,407.00	\$2,819,095.00	6.00%
State Rev. Sharing	\$143,000.00	\$137,000.00	(4.38%)
Excise Tax	\$785,000.00	\$820,450.00	4.52%
Equipment Fund	\$63,170.00	\$77,920.00	23.35%
Misc. Fees:	\$293,785.00	\$320,590.00	9.12%
Road Block Grant:	\$69,500.00	\$70,500.00	1.44%
Enterprise Fund	\$103,050.00	\$120,500.00	16.93%
Designated Surplus	\$12,500.00	\$10,000.00	(125.00%)
Undesignated Surplus	\$285,240.00	\$196,250.00	(145.35%)
TOTAL	\$4,414,652.00	\$4,572,305.00	3.57%

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The proposed budget for FY19 calls for a 3.57% 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 2.97% increase in operational costs. The capital side of the budget is increasing 6.57% in order to meet the Town's capital needs identified in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.

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 than expected due to Pratt's expansion and equipment improvements. These funds were used to offset an increase in the tax rate caused by the increases in the School and County Budgets. 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. However, the Town has experienced increased costs in certain areas that include the following:

There are increased 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 2.2% cost of living increase.. In addition, some of our positions pay at the minimum wage scale and with the increase in minimum wage, we see these increase in the Library and Parks and Recreation staff costs.

With the relocation of the RSU/SAD 60 Administrative Offices, the Town will now be responsible for all the utility costs for the municipal building. The areas that RSU/SAD 60 used to utilize are being maintained as unoccupied space and the hope is to reduce electrical and heating demand. The janitorial services have been cut in hours and now shared with the Community Center. Even with these measure, the Town anticipates an increase in costs of approximately \$27,000.00.

The Town continues to see energy costs increase especially in the area of electricity and heating fuel costs. It is anticipated that electricity cost will increase 10% over the next year while heating oil will increase in the \$0.25 -\$0.50 a gallon. In addition, increase in oil have had an effect on the town's paving costs which are anticipated to increase \$3.00 a ton or back to 2016 paving costs.

With the recent decision of China to stop accepting recycled materials from the US, as well as tightening domestic recycling markets, the Town has seen our recyclable disposal cost go from no charge to a charge market. This is estimated to increase Transfer Station costs around \$13,000.00 in the coming year. The Town is hopeful that recycling markets will improve over the coming year.

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 next few pages of this newsletter.

FY19 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 6.57%. 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: Seven years ago the Town authorized the purchase of a new fire pumper to be financed over a ten year period. This is the sixth payment on the bond for the fire pumper.



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. This is the second payment on the bond to fund the purchase of the tanker



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 continue 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? Should an addition to the back of the existing Rescue Squad building be constructed and current Rescue Building remodeled into office space? 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 continue the process of planning for a new facility for the Fire Department and inclusion of the Rescue Squad within the facility. This will bring the Town's reserve fund for this project to \$100,000.00.

Station Lighting and Paving: The Town is proposing to replace the lighting in the Central Station and Substation with newer efficient LED lighting to improve quality of lighting as well as lower the cost of energy at the facilities. The current fixtures in Central Station are over 90 years old and the substation's lighting is nearly 40 years old. In addition the Town is proposing to repave the aprons of both stations as they are in need of repair. Estimated cost is \$25,000.00.

Police Department:



Police Cruiser: This year, the police department is requesting a replacement cruiser. Once again the Police Department is planning on replacing one of the Impalas with a Ford Interceptor SUV. The Town currently has 3 SUV's in our fleet and we have found that the maintenance costs are significantly less than the standard cruiser even as the vehicles age. The SUV model also allows for the department to respond to emergencies in all types of weather.

The increase in cost this year can be attributed to the Town needing to purchase K-9 equipment as the cruiser slated for replacement is the K-9 unit.

The Town continues to apply for grants to assist in this purchase and although we believe we will be successful in the grant process, we must budget for the full amount to outfit the vehicle. All grants received will reduce the cost to local taxpayers. Estimated cost - \$39,250.00

Rescue Squad:

Ambulance: Pursuant to the Town's Capital Improvement Plan, a replacement ambulance was to be purchased in 2017, however, in 2016, the Rescue Squad purchased a used second ambulance with funds of the Rescue Squad. The purchase of this second ambulance allowed the town to postpone replacement of the primary ambulance until 2020. Recent maintenance issues with the current ambulances along with projected increased costs of ambulances have assisted in making the decision to purchase the new Ambulance in the coming fiscal year. In anticipation of this replacement, the Town started setting funds aside for the purchase of a new ambulance last year. The Town is proposing to appropriate \$65,000.00 in this fiscal year and then purchasing the new ambulance with the funds set aside and borrowing from ourselves from Undesignated Surplus funds. The cost of the ambulance is estimated at \$220,000.00 and the town will have \$90,000.00 in dedicated funds to use towards the purchase. The Town will borrow the remaining \$130,000.00 from ourselves and repay the funds over the next three budget cycles at \$45,000.00 a year to replenish the funds.



Public Works:



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 continue 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 \$65,000.00 be placed in the wheeler fund, bring the total in the reserve fund to \$105,000.00.

Loader: At the 2016 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. This will be the second of 4 payments of \$28,670.00 per year.



Loader Plow: When the Town purchased the new Loader, we did not replace all of the implements as most were in good working condition. In the past two years, we have seen increase wear and tear on the front plow used by the Loader. The Town is proposing to purchase a new plow for the loader purchased in 2016. The replacement plow is estimated to cost \$10,000.00.

ROAD PROJECTS

FY2019 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 \$109,090.00 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 will be the final phase and consist of the surface pavement on the entire Road. Estimated cost this phase is \$65,125.00.

Quarry Road: It is planned to reconstruct the first 700 feet of the road and then shim and overlay the entire Road. Estimated cost of the project is: \$89,600.00.

Eastern Avenue: It is planned to shim and overlay the entire Road. Estimated cost of the project is: \$30,250.00.

Bauneg Beg Hill Road: This is the first phase of a two year project to repair Bauneg Beg Hill Road. This year, it is planned to make drainage improvements, rebuild approximately 450 feet of road and then shim and overlay the section of Bauneg Beg Hill Road from Oakwoods Road to Hammond Road. Next year the Town will complete work on the section of Road from Hammond Road to the Sanford Townline. Estimated Cost: \$164,800.00

Transfer Station:

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

Waste Oil Furnace: The Town utilizes a waste oil furnace to heat the recycling building at the Transfer Station. The waste oil furnace was originally installed in 2000. The Town has rebuilt the furnace a few times over the years and it is proposed to replace the furnace with an updated waste oil furnace. Estimated cost of the furnace replacement is \$7,000.00.

Paving: Last year the town relocated the recycling compactor as we made the switch to single stream recycling. The concrete pad that the compactor sat upon was found to be deteriorated. In order to repair the pad it has been determined the best method is to pave over the existing pad to prevent tripping hazards and to make maintenance of the facility easier. In addition, there are a few older trenches that have sunk and the town will plan to repave those areas as well. Estimated cost is \$6,000.00.

NORTH BERWICK COMMUNITY GARDEN



The North Berwick Community Garden is now accepting applications for 2018 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 scaler@maine.rr.com
joanshaw1@yahoo.com dbaker4@maine.rr.com
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: \$725.00 per child Non-resident \$775.00 per person for the entire 6 weeks, all field trips and a camp t-shirt. Dates: Monday, July 2nd through Friday, August 10th, 2018 from 9am-3pm. This year there will be a \$50.00 discount per sibling after the first camper is registered.

Before and after care is also available for an additional fee and this fee remains the same as last year.

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.



Accepting registrations beginning April 1, 2017

Sign-Up Dates:

April 12th 5:00pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.

May 22th 5:00pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.



PARKS AND RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

North Berwick Fall Soccer Program



Residents: \$40.00 per player
\$95.00 for a family of 3 or more
Non-Residents: \$50.00 per player

Sign Up Dates:

Tuesday, May 22, 2018 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, June 20, 2018 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Wednesday, August 1, 2018 5:00pm to 6:00pm
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.



Easter Event

Saturday, March 31, 2018
Noon - 1:30pm
Community Center
Ages: Pre-k to 3rd grade

On March 31st the Easter Bunny will hop into North Berwick and hide lots of eggs at the NB Community Center. Egg hunt starts at noontime followed by some other activities. There will be three grade groups: Pre-k, Kind.-1st and 2nd -3rd. Make sure and bring a basket. The eggs will contain candy, trinkets and numbers for a prize that we cannot fit inside the eggs. North Berwick residents only please... Dress accordingly, event will be held rain, snow or shine.

Egg hunts start at NOON -- BRING YOUR BASKET!



Earth Day Saturday, April 21, 2018

On Saturday, April 21 at 10am groups and individuals will assemble at the NB Community Center and enjoy some drinks and breakfast items while teams are formed and supplies are handed out. Once that is done everyone can set out and beautify different parts of North Berwick. All ages and abilities are welcome to help out. Please dress accordingly.

Event will take place rain, snow, mud or shine! Call the Rec. Director if you have a group to sign up ahead.

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 under Parks and Rec.

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



CONSERVATION - AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION POLLINATOR HEALTH



The Conservation Agricultural Commission has been reviewing the issue of pollinator health such as the recent decline in bee populations and how we as citizens of North Berwick can help. Pollinator health is an issue many in town feel compelled to act progressively on. Lack of food and places to live are the main challenges that our pollinators face; to help them out, it's best to let some flowering "weeds" grow rather than to keep large areas of grass short with the help of harsh chemicals. Equally, if not more helpful, is sowing plants that pollinators enjoy and need. The Commission would like to help residents out with this. Commission member will be at town meeting distributing a mixture of flower seeds designed to provide food for pollinators throughout the year. If you'd like some so you can plant a few pretty flowers for our pollinators, please stop by and say hi!

What are pollinators?

- * Native bees range in size from sweat bees, 0.1" to bumblebees, 0.8".
- * Other pollinators include butterflies, flower flies, bats, and hummingbirds.
- * Pollinators are important for our fields, pastures, fruits, vegetables, trees, flowers, and grasses. Some insects, spiders, and even mammals depend on their larvae for food as well.
- * Pollinators' numbers are decreasing.

The decline of our native pollinator populations has economic and ecological implications!

What can we do to help?

Creating habitat is our best way of helping. To have a bee friendly yard:

- * Set-asides and hedgerows that are left undisturbed are ideal for nesting and foraging.
- * Successions of flowers throughout the season gives the bees good food sources.
- * Focus on purple, blue, yellow flowers, focus on native perennials. A variety of shapes and sizes is ideal.
- * Provide clean water and mud. A bird bath is ideal, if you change the water often.
- * Mow when it's cold and windy, or late in the evening when bee activity is reduced.

Plant these to help the bees!

Early season:

Crocus, snow drop, daffodil
With hazel, red maple
Dandelion, fruit trees
Johnny jump-up

Mid season:

Oregano, chives, thyme
Bee balm, purple cone flower
Borage, anise hyssop, St. John's wort
Red clover

Late season:

Goldenrod
Zinnia
Asters

-“cides” and pollinators

- * Pesticides/insecticides are very toxic to our pollinators. Limiting/avoiding them is best for the bees!
- * Herbicides eliminate food. But some are also toxic for insects.
- * Alternatives include predator or parasitic bugs, that kill the “bad bugs.” A few examples:
 - Nematodes destroy grubs and cut worms.
 - Tachnid flies feed on gypsy moths and Japanese beetles
 - Ladybugs feed on bean beetles and spider mites
 - Parasitic wasps: attack tomato hornworms, corn borers, cabbage loopers
- * Alternative to pesticides/herbicides: Homemade Weed Killer - kills weeds (and everything else it touches too!)
 - Combine 2 cups vinegar, 1 tablespoon salt and 1 tablespoon of Dawn dishwashing liquid
- * If you must spray, warn your neighbors, don't spray on flowering plants or under windy conditions, and spray at dawn or after dusk when the pollinators aren't active!



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, 2018.

**TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2018 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 available at the Town Office)

Whitehouse Murray(#4), Frost(#5), Guptill (#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 2019 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: _____

<u>TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN</u>	
Fiscal Year: 20__	Tax Bill: \$ _____
Number of Payments:	_____
Amount per Payment: \$	_____

**Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, April 7, 2018
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!!!**

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

www.townofnorthberwick.com

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