

Highlights in this Issue

- Election Guide
- Town Meeting Results

- State of Maine Referendum
- York County Referendum
- Parks and Rec Events



NOVEMBER ELECTION NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is intended to assist North Berwick voters with understanding the issues that will be voted upon at the November 6, 2018 election. The Board of Selectmen is encouraging North Berwick voters to use this newsletter as a guide to the election and to vote on November 6, 2018. There are five State Referendum Questions and one York County Referendum Question. **Please feel free to bring the newsletter to the polls to assist you in your voting decisions since there are no explanations on the ballot with the questions.**

WHERE TO VOTE? North Berwick Elementary School located on Varney Road between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.

WHO CAN VOTE? You must be a United States citizen, be at least 18 years old, live in Maine and be registered to vote in the Town of North Berwick.

WHERE DO I REGISTER? You may register to vote at the Town Office, or at the polls during election day.

CAN I HAVE HELP VOTING? Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official can also help you read or mark a ballot. However, your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

HOW DO I MARK A BALLOT? The Town uses a digital scanning machine to count the completed ballots. Fill in the oval next to your choice. If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. **DO NOT ERASE.**

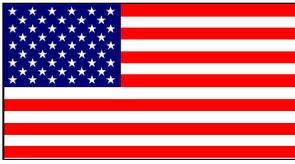
DO I NEED TO GO TO THE POLLS ON ELECTION DAY TO VOTE? No. Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at the polling place. Absentee Ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. Any registered voter may request a ballot in person, by phone or www.maine.gov/cgibin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl

A family member or third party may request a ballot for you by completing an Application in person at the Clerk's office. All ballots must be returned by 8 pm on Election Day. If returning your ballot by mail, please plan accordingly. Any ballots received after 8 pm will not be counted.

For the November 6, 2018 General and Referendum Election, the deadline to request an absentee ballot, including a ballot voted in the presence of the clerk, is Thursday, November 1, 2018, unless the voter completes a special circumstances application, stating one of four allowable reasons for requesting an absentee ballot after this deadline. The four reasons are:

- An unexpected absence from the municipality during the entire time the polls are open on election day;
- A physical disability,
- An inability to travel to the polls because the voter is a resident of a coastal island ward or precinct; or
- An incapacity or illness that has resulted in the voter being unable to leave home or a treatment facility.

This special circumstances application must be signed **by the voter**. This application can be obtained from the Town Clerk or from the Secretary of State.



NOVEMBER 6, 2018

STATE OF MAINE REFERENDUM ELECTION

Question 1: Citizen's Initiative

Do you want to create the Universal Home Care Program to provide home-based assistance to people with disabilities and senior citizens, regardless of income, funded by a new 3.8% tax on individuals and families with Maine wage and adjusted gross income above the amount subject to Social Security taxes, which is \$128,400 in 2018?

Question 2: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist homeowners whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems?

Question 3: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$106,000,000 bond issue, including \$101,000,000 for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities and equipment related to ports, piers, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated \$137,000,000 in federal and other funds, and \$5,000,000 for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings?

Question 4: Bond Issue

Do you favor a \$49,000,000 bond issue to be matched by at least \$49,000,000 in private and public funds to modernize and improve the facilities and infrastructure of Maine's public universities in order to expand workforce development capacity and to attract and retain students to strengthen Maine's economy and future workforce?

Question 5: Bond Issue

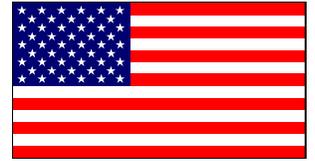
Do you favor a \$15,000,000 bond issue to improve educational programs by upgrading facilities at all 7 of Maine's community colleges in order to provide Maine people with access to high-skill, low-cost technical and career education?

YORK COUNTY REFERENDUM

Question #1: Referendum Question

Shall the position of elected county treasurer be abolished and replaced with a treasurer appointed by the county commissioners?

ELECTION GUIDE



CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

United States Senator

Eric Brakey	Republican
Angus King, Jr.	Independent
Zak Ringlestein	Democratic

United States Representative to Congress

Martin Grohman	Independent
Mark Holbrook	Republican
Chellie Pingree	Democratic

State of Maine Governor

Alan Caron	Independent
Teresea Hayes	Independent
Janet Mills	Democratic
Shawn Moody	Republican

Maine State Senator

Robert Foley	Republican
Thomas Wright	Democratic

Maine Representative to Legislature District 5

Noah Cobb	Independent
Charles Galemmo	Democratic
Beth O'Connor	Republican

Maine Representative to Legislature District 6

Manley Gove, Sr.	Republican
Tiffany Roberts-Lovell	Democrat

York County Treasurer

Bradford Littlefield	Republican
Bobby Mills	Democratic

York County Registrar of Deeds

Nancy Hammond	Democratic
Michael Provencher	Republican

York County Sheriff

Roger Hicks	Republican
William King	Democratic

York County District Attorney

Bernard Broder	Independent
Kathryn Slattery	Democratic

York County Commissioner

Robert Luther	Republican
Sallie Chandler	Democratic



State Referendum Questions and Explanations

Prepared by the Office of the Attorney General



Question #1:

This initiated bill establishes a new Universal Home Care Program to provide “in-home and community support services” to senior citizens (65 years of age or older) and persons with physical or mental disabilities residing in Maine who need assistance with at least one activity of daily living. Individuals residing in a hospital, nursing care facility, intermediate care facility for persons with intellectual disabilities, adult family care home, or residential care facility would not be eligible for the program. Income would not be a factor in determining eligibility, and the services would be made available at no cost to the individuals or their families.

In-home and community support services are defined as meaning health care, social services and other assistance required to enable adults with long-term care needs to remain in their homes. This includes self-directed care services; medical and diagnostic services; professional nursing care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; dietary and nutritional services; personal care assistance; home health aide services; respite care and hospice care; as well as small rent subsidies, transportation, and devices that lessen the effects of disabilities.

A nine-member board, known as the “Universal Home Care Trust Fund Board,” would be responsible for designing the program and overseeing its administration in accordance with the statute and to the extent of available resources in the Universal Home Care Trust Fund described below. The board would be comprised of three representatives from each of the following “constituencies”: 1) personal care agencies, 2) individual providers and direct service providers employed by in-home and community support service agencies, and 3) recipients of the services, or their family members or guardians. The initial board would be appointed to serve for one year, after which each of these three constituencies would have the power to elect their own representatives to the board in accordance with procedures established by the board. The board would be authorized to hire an executive director and staff to administer the program.

The board’s responsibilities would include creating a process for assessing individuals’ needs and determining the extent of services each person may receive, establishing quality and safety standards for care, setting reimbursement rates for providers, creating a system for providing stipends to family caregivers, and managing the program within the limits of available resources in the fund. If the demand for services

exceeded available funds, the board would be authorized to curtail services and to provide varying levels of service to eligible persons based on an assessment of their needs. The legislation authorizes the board to create waiting lists and take other measures as needed to create an orderly process for providing eligible persons with benefits as soon as sufficient funding is available.

The legislation would require service providers to spend a minimum of 77% of the funds received through the program on direct service worker costs. Individual workers employed directly by their clients to provide services, rather than through an agency, would be treated as state employees for purposes of the Maine Labor Relations Act, which establishes collective bargaining rights, defines prohibited employment practices, and creates a grievance process for handling labor disputes.

The program would be funded by a new tax of 3.8% on both wage income and non-wage income in excess of a threshold called the “universal home care tax income threshold.” That threshold is equal to the limit on the amount of wages that are subject to Social Security taxes under existing federal law. For wages earned in 2018, this amount is \$128,400. It is adjusted annually pursuant to federal law. All of the tax revenue collected would be deposited in the Universal Home Care Trust Fund, to be administered by the Universal Home Care Trust Fund Board.

The tax on wage income (including wages, salaries, tips, and other employee compensation) would be paid by both employers and employees, at the rate of 1.9% each, on the amount of wage income that exceeds the threshold. The portion of the tax paid by employees would be withheld from their wages, in the same manner as Social Security taxes.

The new tax also would apply to non-wage income. Each taxpayer would pay a tax of 3.8% on the amount of Maine adjusted gross income (“MAGI”) that exceeds the threshold, reduced by the amount of the tax on wage income paid by the employee and his or her employer.

The proponents of the legislation have stated that the 3.8% tax is intended to be applied on an individual basis, meaning that it would apply only to the amount of each individual’s earned and unearned income above the threshold for that individual. This intent is expressed in some of the language and structure of the bill. However, other critical language in the bill – in particular, use of the term MAGI – could be

interpreted in a way inconsistent with this intent. For a married couple filing a joint income tax return, MAGI is defined in law as the couple's aggregate or combined income, so use of the term MAGI in the bill could mean that a married couple filing a joint income tax return would be subject to this tax if the couple's MAGI exceeded the threshold, even if each individual's wage and non-wage income fell below the threshold.

If approved, this citizen initiated legislation would take effect 30 days after the Governor proclaims the official results of the election.

A "YES" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "NO" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

Question #2:

This Act would authorize the State to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000), for projects as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

Proceeds of the sale of bonds would be expended by the **Maine Department of Environmental Protection** to support the following three programs in the amounts specified below:

- Two million dollars (**\$2,000,000**) would be distributed in the form of grants to municipalities to help replace failing septic systems that are polluting coastal watersheds or causing a public nuisance. Such grants are administered under the existing Small Communities Grant Program, which is governed by Title 38, section 411 of the Maine Revised Statutes, and Chapter 592 of the Department's rules.

- Twenty-seven million, six hundred and fifty thousand dollars (**\$27,650,000**) would be distributed as grants to municipalities to cover from fifteen to twenty-five percent of the costs of planning pollution abatement facilities, and up to eighty percent of the cost of constructing such facilities, in accordance with Title 38, sections 411 and 412 of the Maine Revised Statutes. Priority is to be given to areas with high-value shellfish resources. Funds also may be used for hydrographic modeling. Such modeling can determine the flow of wastewater discharges and thereby make it possible to define more precisely the size and scope of any areas that must remain closed to shellfish harvesting in order to protect public health.

- Three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (**\$350,000**) would be distributed in the form of grants to help homeowners cover the cost of eliminating residential overboard discharge systems that are discharging pollutants in coastal watersheds and replacing them with technologically proven alternatives. The grants would cover a percentage of the costs on a sliding scale based on the homeowner's annual

income up to a maximum of \$125,000, as set forth in Title 38, section 411-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, and Chapter 594 of the Department's rules. The funds would be used only for systems that serve a homeowner's primary residence.

If approved, the bond authorization would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

A "YES" vote approves the issuance of up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in general obligation bonds to finance the activities described above.

A "NO" vote disapproves the bond issue in its entirety.

Question #3:

This Act would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed one hundred and six million dollars (\$106,000,000), to raise funds for a variety of projects as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

One hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of the proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be administered by the **Department of Transportation** for the following purposes:

Highways, secondary roads and bridges – eighty million dollars (**\$80,000,000**) would be expended to:

- construct or reconstruct state highways that have been designated as Priority 1, 2 or 3 by the Department of Transportation in accordance with Title 23, section 73(7) of the Maine Revised Statutes;
- repair secondary roads in partnership with municipalities pursuant to the existing Municipal Partnership Initiative program; and
- replace and rehabilitate bridges.

Municipalities are required to contribute 50% or more of the project costs under the Municipal Partnership Initiative program, which is described on the Department's web site at <http://maine.gov/mdot/planning/>. Highway and bridge projects are matched with federal funds on a ratio of 1.1 to 1 (federal to state) dollars. Accordingly, these bond proceeds are expected to leverage approximately eighty-eight million dollars (\$88,000,000) in federal and local matching funds.

Multi-modal projects – Twenty million dollars (**\$20,000,000**) would be spent on a variety of projects, including facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, aviation, railroads (both passenger and freight), transit (public transportation) and bicycle and pedestrian trails. The intent

is to fund projects that preserve public safety or otherwise demonstrate high economic value in terms of transportation. The investment of these bond proceeds is expected to be matched by approximately forty-nine million dollars (\$49,000,000) in federal, local and private funds.

An additional one million dollars (**\$1,000,000**) of the bond proceeds would be expended by the **Maine Maritime Academy** for remediation of and improvements to its waterfront pier in Castine.

Five million dollars (**\$5,000,000**) in proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be administered by the **Department of Environmental Protection** as a competitive grant program to upgrade or replace municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to improve fish and wildlife habitats, reduce flood hazards and improve storm water management. Local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts and private nonprofit organizations would be eligible to apply for these grants and would be required to provide some matching funds. The criteria for evaluating project proposals are set forth in the bond legislation.

If approved, the bond authorization would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

A "YES" vote approves the issuance of up to one hundred and six million dollars (\$106,000,000) in general obligation bonds to finance the activities described above.

A "NO" vote disapproves the bond issue in its entirety.

Question #4:

This Act would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed forty-nine million dollars (**\$49,000,000**), to raise funds for a variety of projects as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be expended by the **University of Maine System** to support the construction, reconstruction and remodeling of existing and new facilities and infrastructure as approved by the Board of Trustees. The purpose of the bond funding is to expand the University of Maine System's capacity to develop Maine's workforce and enhance its ability to attract and retain students. The projects currently approved by the Board of Trustees are located at all seven campuses in the University of Maine System and include renovations and improvements to dormitories, modernization and expansion of laboratories and classrooms for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programs, nursing and child care programs, as well as development of career service centers,

and other facilities to support first-generation and non-traditional students. The bond proceeds would have to be matched by an equal amount of funding from other private and public sources.

If approved, the bond authorization would take effect 30 days after the Governor's proclamation of the vote.

A "YES" vote approves the issuance of up to forty-nine million dollars (\$49,000,000) in general obligation bonds to finance the above-described activities as approved by the University of Maine System's Board of Trustees.

A "NO" vote disapproves the bond issue in its entirety.

Question #5:

This Act would authorize the State to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed fifteen million dollars (**\$15,000,000**), to raise funds for facility improvements at seven Maine Community College System campuses, as described below. The bonds would run for a period not longer than 10 years from the date of issue and would be backed by the full faith and credit of the State.

Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be spent by the **Maine Community College System** for the following purposes and in the following amounts:

\$2,503,755 Central Maine Community College in Auburn – to renovate and expand instructional laboratories, upgrade information technology infrastructure, and upgrade heating and ventilating systems in order to improve energy efficiency and achieve long-term savings.

\$2,233,082 Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor – to upgrade information technology systems and convert heating systems to natural gas.

\$2,190,731 Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield and Hinckley – to fund capital equipment for a new program in millwrighting and industrial mechanics, upgrade information technology infrastructure and instructional and library technologies, and replace and insulate aging windows and facades on certain buildings.

\$1,165,119 Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle – to expand the laboratory for the diesel hydraulics program, renovate classrooms, upgrade information technology infrastructure, upgrade heating and ventilation systems, and invest in energy efficiencies.

\$4,275,100 Southern Maine Community College in South Portland and Brunswick – to repair and improve facilities, achieve energy efficiencies, and upgrade information technology systems as well as instructional and library services.

\$ 885,853 Washington County Community College in Calais – to renovate and expand instructional laboratories, upgrade information technology systems, and invest in instruction technologies.

\$1,746,360 York County Community College in Wells – to upgrade information technology systems and develop an Industrial Trades Center in Sanford.

If approved, the authorization of these bonds would take effect 30 days after the Governor’s proclamation of the vote.

A “YES” vote approves the issuance of up to fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in general obligation bonds to finance the activities described above.

A “NO” vote disapproves the bond issue in its entirety.

York County Referendum

Prepared by the York County Commissioners

A “YES” vote will abolish the position of elected county treasurer for the County of York. Upon abolishment of the position of elected county treasurer, the county commissioners shall appoint a county treasurer in accordance with Title 30-A, Section 156(4) of the Maine Revised Statutes. A “yes” vote does not prevent a voter from voting for a candidate for the position of elected county treasurer. In the event the voters do not vote to abolish the position of elected county treasurer, the candidate receiving the most votes shall be the elected county treasurer.

A “NO” vote will result in a continuation of the existing electing county treasurer position. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be the elected county treasurer.



In Memoriam - Hoki

September 24, 2018 was a very sad day for the North Berwick Police Department when we had to say goodbye to our police K-9 and friend Hoki.

Hoki was the police department’s first K-9, starting in 2012 and working until he retired in 2017. Hoki was a dual purpose German Shepherd, fully trained in patrol techniques and drug searches. Hoki responded to 243 calls for service during his career. Immediately after graduating from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy’s K-9 Academy, Hoki put his skills to work, tracking and apprehending armed robbery suspects who crashed their car on Route 4 and fled into the woods.

Hoki’s favorite assignments were visiting the children at the North Berwick Elementary School, summer camps, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to name a few. He would show off his skills and end the visit with a meet and greet with the children, usually ending with him laying on his back as the children rubbed his chest.

Since his retirement in 2017, Hoki lived out his life with his handler, Officer Dan Pelkey, wife Rachel and their two children, where he was very much loved and adored as part of their family. On his final day, the North Berwick Police, Fire and Rescue Departments, as well as Officers representing several police departments from around the state, were present at the vet clinic to show their respect to this dignified K-9 Officer. Hoki will certainly be missed by many, especially the entire police department.

The North Berwick Police Department would like to send a special thank you to Down Maine Veterinary Clinic for the exceptional service they provided during Hoki’s entire career.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS BUDGET RESULTS



Municipal Budget:

Town Meeting was held on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Noble High School and was attended by approximately 61 citizens. The results of the budget are as follows for Fiscal Year 2019:

	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>
Taxation	\$2,659,407.00	\$2,819,095.00
State Rev. Sharing	\$143,000.00	\$137,000.00
Excise Tax	\$785,000.00	\$820,450.00
Equipment Fund	\$63,170.00	\$77,920.00
Misc. Fees:	\$293,785.00	\$320,590.00
Road Block Grant:	\$69,500.00	\$70,500.00
Enterprise Fund	\$103,050.00	\$120,500.00
Designated Surplus	\$12,500.00	\$10,000.00
Undesignated Surplus	<u>\$285,240.00</u>	<u>\$196,250.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$4,414,652.00</u>	<u>\$4,572,305.00</u>

After all the articles were acted upon, the overall Town budget was increased \$157,653.00 from last year or 3.57%. The increase in the budget consisted of a \$44,713.00 increase due to Capital Improvement Projects planned for the year and an operation budget increase of \$112,940.00. The amount of funds appropriated through taxation increased by \$160,135.00 from FY 18.

County Budget: The York County Budget assessment to the town decreased by \$22,722.00 for FY19. This decrease was due to the Town's final payment to the County for the Fiscal Year change that was amortized over the past 5 year period. The Town of North Berwick's portion of the County Budget for FY17 is \$356,337.00.

Education Budget: This year the overall SAD #60 budget increased by \$1,026,492.00 or 5.63%. This increase resulted in an increase to the Town of North Berwick in the amount of \$346,995.00. The town's share of the SAD 60 budget is \$ 5,771,377.00. North Berwick's percentage of SAD 60's cost has increased this year from 29.37% to 29.60 % due in to the Town's State valuation and pupil count. Berwick and Lebanon's share of the education costs are 39.39% (\$7,680,220.00 which represented a \$405,198.00 increase) and 31.01% (\$6,046,297.00 which represented a \$278,910.00 increase) respectively.

Breakdown by Department

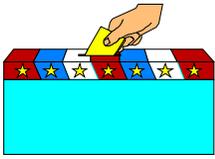
	<u>FY18</u>	<u>FY19</u>
Highway	\$505,100.00	\$518,450.00
Capital Imp.	\$741,285.00	\$789,998.00
General Gov.	\$930,755.00	\$977,487.00
Protection	\$1,523,820.00	\$1,548,758.00
Library	\$237,000.00	\$243,000.00
Parks and Rec.	\$110,640.00	\$112,495.00
Health and Social	\$232,731.00	\$248,595.00
Other	\$37,426.00	\$37,607.00
Debt	<u>\$95,915.00</u>	<u>\$95,915.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$4,414,652.00</u>	<u>\$4,572,305.00</u>

Capital Improvement Budget

Highway	\$508,670.00	\$508,670.00
Parks and Rec.	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Gov.	\$30,000.00	\$20,000.00
Police	\$34,500.00	\$39,250.00
Rescue	\$25,000.00	\$65,000.00
Transfer Station	\$13,050.00	\$17,000.00
Library	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fire	<u>\$130,065.00</u>	<u>\$140,078.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$741,285.00</u>	<u>\$789,998.00</u>

Medical Marijuana Retail Store Moratorium

On August 14, 2018, the Town of North Berwick, not having specific regulations governing the operation of Medical Marijuana retail stores under the town's ordinance, established a moratorium on this land use. The moratorium will allow the town to study the new law, determine the land use and other regulatory implications of this land use and consider what regulations, if any, are appropriate to avoid or minimize impacts on the health, safety and welfare of the town, its residents and visitors. The Board of Selectmen and Planning Board have begun working on Medical Marijuana Land Uses regulations and anticipate presenting amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for voter consideration at the Annual Town Meeting in April 2019.



VOTING RESULTS

The following people were elected into office during voting at Town Meeting;

Jonathan Hall, Selectman
Michael Johnson, Jr., Selectman
Astrida Schaeffer, SAD 60 Board
Beverly Gray, Cemetery Trustee
Steven Gray, Water District Trustee
Anita Johnson., Water District Trustee

Dan Burbank, Sanitary District Trustee
Owen Thyng, Sanitary District Trustee
Stan Cowan, Budget Committee
Gregg Drew, Budget Committee
Bruce Hackett, Budget Committee
Jeremiah Johnson, Budget Committee

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

YES 135 NO 38

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?

YES 114 NO 60

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 describe the establishment of the Escrow Account and how to determine the escrow cost” be enacted?

YES 139 NO 33

All Referendum Questions were approved by voters.

TAX RATE ESTABLISHED

The Board of Selectmen has established the FY2019 Tax Rate for the Town at \$12.90 per thousand dollars of valuation. This represents a \$0.30 increase in the tax rate and the first increase in four years. This year it was generally predicted that the Town would see a \$1.00 increase in our mill rate due primarily to the \$346,995.00 increase in the SAD 60 portion of the budget and the Town's budget increase in the amount of \$157,653.00 to fund the budget. However, the budget was assisted by a large increase in the Business Equipment Tax Exemption program due to the purchase of equipment by Pratt and Whitney and, the town saw growth in the town's valuation due to new home construction.

The increase represented a \$75.00 increase in taxes from the previous year for the average home in North Berwick and less than 1% a year for the past four years. Many property owners, who have taken advantage of the Homestead Exemption, have seen their tax bill rise this year to about the same level of taxes as the year 2013. If you are a full-time resident of the Town of North Berwick and you have not applied for the Homestead Exemption, please contact the Town's Assessor, Craig Skelton, to fill out the application. Taxpayers who receive this exemption see a tax reduction of \$258.00 for their primary residence. Applications must be received by April 1 in order for them to be applied for the following fiscal year tax bill.

Capital Improvements – Vehicles



The Town approved the purchase of two vehicles at the Annual Town Meeting; Police Cruiser and Ambulance. Both vehicles have been purchased. The Police Cruiser was placed into service in August and the Ambulance will be in service by the end of October.



HIGHWAY PROJECTS

FY2019 ROAD CIP

PROJECTS: The overall Road Capital Improvement Budget approved by voters for this year was \$405,000.00. In addition to making the \$109,090.00 payment on the road bond approved five years ago, the following projects were completed:

Diamond Hill Road: The Town completed the three year road improvement project on Diamond Hill Road. This year was the final phase and consisted of the surface pavement on the entire Road.

Quarry Road: The Town reconstructed the first 700 feet of the road and then shim and overlaid the entire Road.

Eastern Avenue: The Town shim and overlaid the entire Road.

Bauneg Beg Hill Road: This is the first phase of a two year project to repair Bauneg Beg Hill Road. This year, improvements included drainage improvements, rebuilding or approximately 450 feet of road and then shim and overlaid 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.



Winter Plowing Activities



As the town prepares for another winter, (yes the white stuff will soon be falling but hopefully not too soon) the Town would like to remind residents of a few items:

Plowing Snow Across the Road: Please be aware that it is against the law (MRSA 29A section 2396 (4)) to push, blow, shovel or plow snow into or across the street as it may create a hazardous situation. Please pile the snow on your side of the road. Persons caught plowing snow across the road may be subject to a Police summons and fines in the amount of \$190.00 per occurrence.

Mailboxes and Fences: One of the most common question asked during the winter is whether the Town will replaced a damaged mailbox? The Town's Public Works crew does a great job of keeping the 65 miles of Town roads plowed and sanded during the winter months. Every effort is made to not damage any mailboxes as the Town clears the snow off the roads, but unfortunately, some mailboxes do get damaged during the winter months. Mailboxes and fences located in the right of way are considered obstructions to snow removal activities and therefore the town is not liable for damage done to mailboxes located in the road right of way. Please be aware that the Town does not replace damaged mailboxes unless the damaged mailbox is located outside of the town's right of way and the damage is done by hitting the mailbox with the actual plow or truck. Please be aware that most damage to mailboxes is a result of the snow coming off the wing and hitting the mailbox and not the plow actually hitting the mailbox. If the Town does damage your mailbox, please let us know so that we can keep track of the mailbox location. This same rule applies to fences located within the town's right of way. As a rule of thumb, the town's right of way extends 25 feet from the center line of the road.

On Street Parking: Beginning November 1 and extending to March 31, it is unlawful to park a vehicle on any street in North Berwick between the hours of 12:00 am (midnight) and 6:00 am. No vehicle may be parked at any time on a public way in such a manner as to interfere with snow plowing or snow removal. Vehicles in violation are subject to \$25.00 fine.

PARKS AND RECREATION FALL EVENTS



ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

North Berwick Village
Saturday, Nov. 24th from 3pm-5pm
The Tree will be lit at 5pm

There will be hay rides, contests, snacks, a Marcus Gale concert, holiday songs, door prizes, Santa Letter Drop Off Mailbox and of course Santa Claus' arrival at 3pm sharp.



Again this year we will have the Lego Christmas Building Contest and Gingerbread Structure contests.

For complete schedule go
online to townofnorthberwick.org.



North Berwick Halloween Howler



At the
Community Center



Please Note the Location Change

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. • Saturday, Oct. 27
Community Center, 264 Lebanon Road

Calling all North Berwick Residents: dress in
costume and come join the fun!



4:00 – 4:45 pm BJ Hickman Magic Show

4:45 – 5:15 pm Costume Contest

5:15 – 5:30 pm Halloween Parade

5:30 – 7:00 pm

Halloween Games

"Haunted Tent" Boy Scout Troop 312

"Halloween Story Time"

"Fortune Teller"

D.A Hurd Library "Halloween Story Time"

Refreshments in Community Center



Neighborhood Craft Fair - November 24, 2018

The Neighborhood Craft Fair will be held this year on Saturday the 24th of November at the North Berwick Elementary School from 9am-2pm. This is the eleventh year for this wonderful event that donates all the proceeds to food insecurity programs in

North Berwick as well as the North Berwick Heating Oil Assistance Program.. There is a large Silent Auction with many Artisans donating the best of their work and perhaps a surprise or two this year. Our Crafters are from all over the region with a large selection of unique and fabulous one of a kind items. You are sure to find just the right gift for that special person on your list with all these fabulous choices. You will have an opportunity to win an item that each of many crafters has made because each crafter donates to a giant raffle. **Bring in a canned good and get a free raffle ticket.** A Lunch prepared and served by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion is available. All this fills the shopper with a wonderful Christmas spirit and is truly in the spirit of the Holiday. Every year the statement has been made that "no one should ever go hungry or ever be cold". Join us, for this is truly a Neighborhood Event. Monetary donations and donations of non-perishable foods are gratefully accepted.



**NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018
POLLS OPEN FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
NO. BERWICK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



GET YOUR CAN TO THE POLLS! - Assessing Departments across the State of Maine are holding "Thanks for Giving" food drives to benefit local food pantries. Bring a non-perishable food item and/or cash donation to the polls on Election Tuesday on November 6 or during absentee voting. Every dollar raised equals three dollars to the pantry. The North Berwick Food Pantry will be at the polls to accept any and all donations. Thank You for Giving!!

GET OUT AND OTE

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

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