

**South Berwick
Town Council Meeting
November 22, 2022**

Chair Mallory Cook turned the gavel over to Vice-Chair Jeff Minihan to conduct the meeting. Mr. Minihan called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Councilors present included Jessica Cyr and Melissa Costella. Town Manager Tim Pellerin and Assistant Town Manager Jennifer Janelle were also in attendance. John James was not present.

Approval of Minutes

1. Town Council 11-15-22: On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Ms. Cyr, it was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes as written.

Treasurer's Warrant

1. On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Ms. Cyr, it was unanimously voted to sign the warrant dated November 17, 2022 in the amount of \$76,945.44.

Reports & Presentations

1. State House Reps Tiffany Roberts & Michelle Meyer were present to discuss any concerns or issues that the Council would like addressed at the legislature. LD290, Tax Stabilization has significantly impacted local communities. There are several new bills drafted to address concerns. Mr. Pellerin commented that the State passes legislation without any guidance for the municipalities; this needs to change.

Ms. Meyer stated that it is important for municipal input at the public hearings, whether it be in person or in writing. Ms. Roberts stated that work is being done to amend LD2003 (which impacts zoning) by extending the implementation date passed July 1, 2023.

Mrs. Cook asked if either Rep had a sense for what was coming with revenue sharing. No.

2. TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Districts: Denise Clavette, Economic Development Director, gave the Council an overview of the amended Punkin Town TIF and the proposed Transit-Oriented TIF. She explained how TIF's are a great economic tool for attracting new businesses. New growth in a TIF can be "sheltered" and 100% of the funds would be available for the Town to use for specific infrastructure enhancements.

Comment was made that TIF's can be very complicated and difficult to grasp. Administration will work on a more simplified explanation for the public hearings.

Public Comment

None

New Business

1. The Council met and talked with Christine Prunier, Main St., regarding her application to the Planning Board.

On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mrs. Costella, it was unanimously voted to appoint Ms. Prunier to the Planning Board as an alternate member with a term to expire June 30, 2023.

2. On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Ms. Cyr, it was unanimously voted to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 27, at 6:00pm, at the Police Station, to receive comment on the proposed amendments second amended and restated Punkin Town & CMP Corridor Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program pursuant to 30A §5226 of the Maine Revised Statutes as amended.

On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Mr. Minihan, it was unanimously voted to hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at 6:15pm, at the Police Station, to receive comment on the proposed South Berwick Transit Oriented Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and Development Program pursuant to 30A §5226 of the Maine Revised Statutes as amended.

Town Manager's Report

- Highway: Getting equipment ready for winter. Terry passed her CDL test.
- Police: 11 arrests, 16 accidents, 96 traffic stops. The electronic sign has been ordered and the area prepped for installation. The Chief, Lt, and Detective Sgt all responded to the school shooting incident in Sanford; later proven to be a hoax. They also attended a critical incident tactical meeting afterward to discuss the incident.
- Fire: 11 calls. Continue to work on updating policies and procedures. Continue cleaning and organizing the offices to better utilize the space.
- Code Enforcement: Have issued 2 building permits and 4 plumbing permits. Conducted 15 building inspections. Working on ordinance language for the enforcement of trash, metals, etc. in people's yards.
- Planning: The Great Hill Rd subdivision was approved at 4 lots requiring town water. Approved an increase in the fenced area due to a larger area needed for the replacement tower. Met with legislators and SMPDC regarding the possible delay of enactment of LD2003.
- Library: Working on reorganizing the advisory board.
- Recreation: Electrical issues with the engine at Powderhouse. It has been repaired, but an entire rewire is needed. Ski trip bus costs have significantly increased this year; \$1800 a trip. The seniors greatly enjoyed their Cher tribute show trip.
- Assessing: Continue to work on the Tax Stabilization Program applications; 282 to date. Still working on GIS mapping.
- Town Clerk: Working on post-election duties including numerous reports and several weeks of data entry.
- Transfer Station: Has been very busy on the weekends.
- Economic Development: Still working on TIFs. Researching various grant opportunities.
- Finance/HR: Looking into solar. The auditor will make a presentation at the second meeting in December. Looking at a composting program at the transfer station.
- Administration: Budget concerns for the next 12-18 months due to increased cost of fuel, propane, and electricity. Have concerns with state LD290. The elevator replacement part is being refurbished (in China) and we hope it doesn't fail before the part comes in.
- Met with reps from York Ambulance today. We are looking at a significant budget increase.

Councilor Comments

1. Mrs. Cook:
 - Reminded everyone that the first two weekends in December Marshwood high is performing Shrek the Musical.
2. Ms. Cyr:
 - Delighted with receiving the winter recreation catalogue in her email.
 - Thankful for the great volunteerism in town.
 - Reminded everyone that Home for the Holidays is next weekend.
 - There will be a penny sale Saturday at the Noble Middle School.
3. Mrs. Costella:
 - Made note that several members of the Marshwood marching band will be performing in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.
 - Congrats to the football team for receiving the Sportsmanship Banner.
 - Tis the season – shop local.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mrs. Cook, seconded by Ms. Cyr, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.

Attest:

Barbara Bennett, CCM