



# *Town of South Berwick*

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## **RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COMBINED COURTHOUSE IN YORK COUNTY.**

**WHEREAS**, the Judicial Branch of the Government of the State of Maine determined that it is advantageous to have a combined courthouse in York County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maine State Legislature agreed and introduced a \$90 million bond with \$65 million designated for a combined courthouse in York County, and the Governor signed that legislation into law; and

**WHEREAS**; the legislature also introduced legislation that was signed into law by the Governor that created the Site Selection Commission to decide the location of a new combined courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**; the Site Selection Commission selected the City of Biddeford as the location for the proposed combined courthouse; and

**WHEREAS**; the Site Selection Commission did not discuss any possible financial impacts on the County; and

**WHEREAS**; the Site Selection Commission devoted little thought or discussion to the absolutely vital need to locate the York County Government office of the York County District Attorney in the new combined courthouse.

**WHEREAS**; the County of York estimates that the added minimum estimated costs to the County will surpass \$500,000 annually; and

**WHEREAS**; these costs will be borne completely by property tax payers in the 29 municipalities in York County; and

**WHEREAS**; not having the District Attorney of York County located within the combined courthouse will be a very significant disservice to the 200,000 citizens of the County and creates very large inefficiencies that the \$65 million combined courthouse is supposed to erase; and


**WHEREAS**; the absence of the District Attorney in the combined courthouse will have a very significant negative impact and effect on the operations and efficiencies of the Maine State Police, the York County Sheriff's, and the 15 municipal police departments in York County; and

**WHEREAS**; our South Berwick Town Council finds it totally unacceptable that the decision of one level of Government, the State Judicial Branch, will have a negative impact on two other levels of Government, the County of York and the 29 cities and towns of the County; and

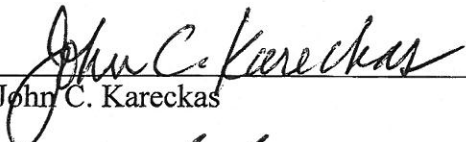
**WHEREAS;** the South Berwick Town Council has carefully reviewed letters sent to Chief Justice Leigh Saufley from the York County Commissioners and the York County Budget Committee, who are elected representatives, who all agree with these concerns.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** by the Town Council of South Berwick that we formally request the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the Honorable Leigh Saufley, and her colleagues seek meaningful dialogue with the County and associated stakeholders to identify, discuss jointly, and agree upon reasonable action to mitigate these impacts to York County and by default to South Berwick. The Council further believes that the active participation by the Chief Justice in these negotiations is critical to successful resolution of this and any and all known impacts.

Signed this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2017 by:

  
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Russell H. Abell

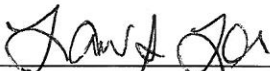
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Town Councilor, Chair

  
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John C. Kareckas


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Town Councilor

  
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John James

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Town Councilor

  
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Laura Leber

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Town Councilor

  
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Thomas A. Chase

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Town Councilor