Eye on North Berwick, The Newsletter of the Town of North Berwick

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Every year, town officials talk about the difficulty of the budget process and this year has been one of the most difficult years that I can remember. The year began with the Town facing one of the largest tax increases in the history of the town. The majority (95%) of the increase being attributed to education costs for MSAD #60, however, with this tax increase came requests from concerned citizens to decrease all levels of local government to reduce the property tax liability on property owners. It has always been the goal of the Board of Selectmen, Budget Committee and Town Manager to produce a municipal budget that meets the needs of the residents at the lowest possible cost. This is very difficult as differing segments of the population request additional services while others want to cut out services in order to reduce their tax burden. Over the years, the balancing of these differing opinions has resulted in a municipal budget that town voters are willing to approve. Unfortunately, the municipal portion is approximately 31% of the tax bill that residents receive. The other 69% is a result of the County (4%) and the School budget which is 65%. To compound the problem, the State of Maine has placed an air of uncertainty over all towns in the State with the threat of reduced revenues from the State and the inability to collect some personal property taxes.

This year’s budget preparation started back in November of 2012 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. This year, we have continued to scrutinize every cost of town government, frozen wages for town employees, changed benefit packages for employees and reviewed every contract that the town has in an effort to reduce the costs of Town government. Capital Projects have been placed on hold or reduced in scope to reduce the impact on tax payers while still maintaining a reasonable and responsible budget.

As a result, the total budget being recommended is $3,779,909.00 or a 3.42% DECREASE 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 resulting in the operations side of the budget decreasing by 0.61% from last year. The Capital Improvement side of the budget decreased, 22.50%. If approved as recommended, this budget would reduce the amount of taxes necessary to fund town government. Town Officials have tried to maintain the level of services at the lowest possible cost. It is imperative for residents to attend town meeting if you want to see the town maintain the level of services now available to citizens or service levels may change as a result of the town meeting vote.

Also on this year’s ballot are three questions that would change the commercial zoning areas in the Town of North Berwick. The Planning Board has been reviewing the zoning ordinance in an effort to provide additional commercial opportunities, enhance the local tax base and increase the availability of local employment opportunities within the Town of North Berwick. As with all proposed Zoning changes, these have been met with opposition by property owners in the areas affected most. 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, this is an important issue that should be decided by the entire town and all are encouraged to vote on Town Meeting day.

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 Wednesday April 3, 2013.

Below is a brief description of the referendum questions and elections with the changes underlined. All the proposed changes can be obtained at the Town Office or on the town's website: www.townofnorthberwick.org.

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

Question #1: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Ordinance amending the North Berwick Zoning Ordinance to expand areas in and near the “village” where commercial uses will be permitted; to change the name of the Limited Commercial Zone to the Commercial II Zone; to permit residential uses on all floors of buildings in commercial zones; to change certain setbacks in commercial zones; to limit adult businesses and medical marijuana registered dispensaries to existing in permitted areas; to permit affordable housing in the Commercial Zones; and to make conforming changes to the Zoning Map,” be enacted?

Map Zoning Changes:

1. Amend Zoning Map by renaming the Limited Commercial District as Commercial II and extending the zone boundaries to include certain land in the areas of Elm Street, High Street, Somersworth Road and Wells Street. The areas to be included in the Commercial II District are currently in the Limited Commercial District and Village A District.

2. Amend Zoning Map by extending the Commercial district to include certain land in the areas of Canal Street, Market Street, and Lower Main Street and remove certain land in the areas of Madison Street and Madison Court. The areas to be included in the Commercial District are currently in the Industrial and Village A District and the areas to be removed shall be made part of the Village A District.

3. Amend Zoning Map by extending the Village Center Overlay District to include certain land in the areas of Church Avenue, Burma Road, Lynn Street, Portland Street, Prospect Street and Wells Street. The areas to be included in the Village Center Overlay District are currently in the Village A District.

4. Amend Zoning Map by extending the Industrial District to include certain land in the areas of Wells Street and Portland Street. The areas to be included in the Industrial District are currently in the Village A District.

Statement of Intent for the proposed map changes:

The Commercial Zones in the Town of North Berwick are proposed to be expanded to allow for additional commercial opportunities, enhance the local tax base and increase the availability of local employment opportunities within the Town of North Berwick. This is being accomplished pursuant to Economic Policies #1 Action 5 of the Comprehensive Plan. The Economic Policies Action stated that expansions of the commercial zones should remain close to the village on routes 4 and 9 north and east of the village closest to interstate highway, but upon further review, this does not allow for larger scale development due to the lack of available land and the current residential uses that exist upon these land areas. Expanding south and west encompasses larger land areas along state highways. The Planning Board has also proposed expanding the commercial zones north and east of the current boundaries to provide additional land for commercial growth opportunities.

Due to the size of the Zoning Map and limitations on printing in black and white, the following are the changes to the zoning areas mention in Map Zoning changes 1-4. To view the entire Zoning Map, please visit the Town’s website or visit Town Hall for the complete colored Zoning Maps.
Proposed Commercial II Zone

Current Limited Commercial Zone

Proposed Commercial Zone

Current Commercial Zone
Proposed Villa Center Zone

Current Villa Center Zone

Proposed Industrial Zone

Current Industrial Zone
**Language Changes:**

**Article 2.1 – Zoning Districts**

NOW READS:

2.1 **Zoning Districts**

To implement the provisions of this Ordinance, the Town of North Berwick is divided into the following Districts:

a. Resource Protection District  
b. Shoreland Limited Residential District  
c. Shoreland - Stream Protection District  
d. Shoreland - General Development I District  
e. Village Center Overlay District  
f. Village A District  
g. Village B District  
h. Village C Overlay District  
i. Residential District 1  
j. Residential District 2  
k. Farm and Forest District  
l. Commercial District  
m. Industrial District  
n. Limited Commercial District  
o. Aquifer Protection Zone A  
p. Aquifer Protection Zone B

PROPOSED:

2.1 **Zoning Districts**

To implement the provisions of this Ordinance, the Town of North Berwick is divided into the following Districts:

a. Resource Protection District  
b. Shoreland Limited Residential District  
c. Shoreland - Stream Protection District  
d. Shoreland - General Development I District  
e. Village Center Overlay District  
f. Village A District  
g. Village B District  
h. Village C Overlay District  
i. Residential District 1  
j. Residential District 2  
k. Farm and Forest District  
l. Commercial District  
m. Industrial District  
n. Limited Commercial District  
o. Aquifer Protection Zone A  
p. Aquifer Protection Zone B

**Statement of Intent:** To reflect the change of zone name from Limited Commercial District to the Commercial II District.

**Article 4.1.12**

NOW READS:

4.1.12 **Limited Commercial District**

a. To provide for small businesses which by their nature and character can fit in harmoniously with the existing pattern of residential and commercial uses.

b. To provide for businesses which are likely to generate small volumes of traffic and relatively few vehicle turning movements onto and off of a busy thoroughfare, thereby avoiding potentially hazardous traffic conditions.

PROPOSED:

4.1.12 **Limited Commercial District-Reserved for Future Use**

**Statement of Intent:** To reflect the elimination of the Limited Commercial District and change to the Commercial II District.

**Article 4.3.k. – Notes to Table 4.3**

NOW READS:

k. Government subsidized elderly housing, designed and built specifically for the elderly, shall be permitted at the ratio of 8,000 square feet of land per 1 bedroom unit and 16,000 square feet of land per 2 bedroom unit in the following districts: Village, Commercial, Limited Commercial and Residential I.

PROPOSED:

k. Government subsidized elderly housing, designed and built specifically for the elderly, shall be permitted at the ratio of 8,000 square feet of land per 1 bedroom unit and 16,000 square feet of land per 2 bedroom unit in the following districts: Village A, Village B, Commercial, Commercial II and Residential I.

**Statement of Intent:** To reflect the change of zone name from Limited Commercial District to the Commercial II District.
**Article 5.13.a. – Off Street Parking and Loading**

NOW READS:

a. Parking requirements fall into two categories on-street parking and off-street parking. On-street parking only applies to the Commercial and Limited Commercial districts. All other districts must meet required parking with off-street parking.

PROPOSED:

a. Parking requirements fall into two categories, on-street parking and off-street parking. On-street parking applies only to the Commercial and Commercial II district. All other districts must meet required parking with off-street parking.

**Statement of Intent:** To reflect the change of zone name from Limited Commercial District to the Commercial II District.

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**Article 5.2.9 – Residential Uses in Commercial Zones**

NOW READS:

5.2.9 Residential Uses in Commercial Zones

New residential uses may be established in commercial zones only when the residential use is to occupy the upper story or stories of buildings where business is conducted at the ground level.

PROPOSED:

New residential uses may be established in the commercial zone.

**Statement of Intent:** To allow for residential uses within the Commercial Zones as a permitted use.

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**Article 4.3. g. – Notes to Table 4.3**

NOW READS:

g. Any side and rear yards of any lots containing commercial or industrial uses in the Limited Commercial, Industrial, Village A or Village B Zones that abut an existing residential use, the Farm and Forest Zone or the Residential I or Residential II Zones, shall have a minimum depth of 100 feet from the side or rear lot lines. All side and rear yards abutting another commercial or industrial site shall have a minimum depth of 20 feet from the side or rear lot lines. No driveways, parking areas, buildings, storage areas, loading and unloading areas and waste collection and disposal areas shall be permitted within this buffer. Side or rear yard setbacks may be reduced to a point that abuts the right-of-way of a railroad (including spur lines).

PROPOSED:

g. Any side and rear yards of any lots containing commercial or industrial uses in the Commercial, Commercial II, Industrial, Village A or Village B Zones that abut an existing residential district, the Farm and Forest Zone or the Residential I or Residential II Zones, shall have a minimum depth of 100 feet from the abutting side or rear lot lines. All side and rear yards abutting another commercial or industrial site shall have a minimum depth of 20 feet from side and rear lot lines. No parking areas, buildings, storage areas, loading and unloading areas and waste collection and disposal areas shall be permitted within this buffer. Side or rear yard setbacks may be reduced to a point that abuts the right-of-way of a railroad (including spur lines).

**Statement of Intent:** To keep the Adult Business land use within the same confines as the current Zoning allows and not into other areas of the expanded Zone.
Article 5.2.1 - Medical Marijuana:

NOW READS:
5.2.1.b. Registered dispensaries must be located in Village Center Overlay District with a minimum of 200 feet from any public or private school, public library, playground or public park and a minimum of 200 feet from any church, chapel, parish house, other place of worship, daycare measured by straight line from the dispensary property line to the property line of the protected location.

PROPOSED:
5.2.1.b. Registered dispensaries must be located in area defined as Village Overlay District as of July 1, 2012 with a minimum of 200 feet from any public or private school, public library, playground or public park and a minimum of 200 feet from any church, chapel, parish house, other place of worship, daycare measured by straight line from the dispensary property line to the property line of the protected location.

Statement of Intent: To keep the registered dispensaries land use within the same confines as the current Zoning allows and not into other areas of the expanded Zone.

Allowance of Affordable Housing within the Commercial Zone. Housing Policy #1 Action 1 and Housing Policy #2 Action 7

Make Affordable Housing a YES in the Commercial Zone and add language to ensure that affordable housing with a development does not differ significantly in appearance from the other buildings.

NOW READS:
5.2.16 Affordable Housing Standards (Village C Overlay District)

A single-family unit in the Village C Overlay District shall be deemed affordable if all the following standards are met:

PROPOSED:
5.2.16 Affordable Housing Standards (Village C Overlay District and Commercial District)

A single-family unit in the Village C Overlay District and Commercial District shall be deemed affordable if all the following standards are met:

f. The siting and appearance of affordable housing will be similar to other houses in the area.

Statement of Intent: To allow for Affordable Housing opportunities within the Commercial Zone as proposed in the Comprehensive Plan Housing Policy #1 Action 1 and Policy #2 Action 7.
Question #2: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Ordinance to prohibit Large Scale Box Stores Zoning Amendment,” be enacted?

**Large Scale Box Stores – Land Use Policy #1 Action 2**

Add the following definition to Article 3.2 Definitions:

**Large Scale Box Stores**: Any retail business establishment having a gross floor area of 75,000 square feet or more in one or more buildings at the same location, and any expansion or renovation of an existing building or buildings that results in a retail business establishment’s having a gross floor area of 75,000 square feet or more in one or more buildings except when the expansion of an existing retail business establishment is less than 20,000 square feet. Other retail business establishments on the same site as the large scale retail business establishment are not included in this definition unless they share a common check stand, management, controlling ownership or storage areas.

This land use to be a NO in all zones.

**Statement of Intent**: To prohibit Large Scale Box Stores within the Town as proposed in the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Policy #1 Action 2.

Question #3: Shall an ordinance entitled, “Town of North Berwick Conditional Use Application Procedure and Conditions Attached to a Conditional Use Zoning Amendment,” be enacted?

**Article 6.9.4 - Application Procedure**

NOW READS:

b. Following the filing of a complete application, and before taking action on any application, the Planning Board, may, hold a public hearing on the application within 60 working days according to the procedures detailed in Section 6.8.5 below. Regardless whether a public hearing is held, the Planning Board shall notify all abutters, including owners of property on the opposite side of any public way, that such an application has been received for review.

PROPOSED:

b. Following the filing of a complete application, and before taking action on any application, the Planning Board, may, hold a public hearing on the application within 60 working days according to the procedures detailed in Section 6.8.5 below. Regardless whether a public hearing is held, the Planning Board shall notify all abutters, including owners of property on the opposite side of any public way, that such an application has been received for review. Any conditional use application for a commercial use shall require a Public Hearing under this section.

**Statement of Intent**: To require all conditional use applications for commercial uses to have a Public Hearing.

**6.9.7 Conditions Attached to Conditional Use**

NOW READS:

a. Upon consideration of the factors listed above, the Planning Board may attach such conditions, in addition to those required elsewhere in this Ordinance, that would mitigate any adverse effects on adjoining or neighboring properties, which might otherwise result from the proposed use. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, specifications for; type of vegetation; increased setbacks and yards; specified sewage disposal and water supply facilities; landscaping and planting screens; period of operation; operational controls; professional inspection and maintenance; sureties; deed restrictions; restrictive covenants; locations of piers, docks, parking and signs; type of construction; or any other conditions, restriction, or safeguard that would uphold the spirit and intent of this Ordinance.

PROPOSED:

a. Upon consideration of the factors listed above, the Planning Board may attach such conditions, in addition to those required elsewhere in this Ordinance, that would mitigate any adverse effects on adjoining or neighboring properties, which might otherwise result from the proposed use. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, specifications for; type of vegetation; increased setbacks and yards; specified sewage disposal and water supply facilities; landscaping and planting screens; period of operation; operational controls; professional inspection and maintenance; sureties; deed restrictions; restrictive covenants; locations of piers, docks, parking and signs; type of construction; the establishment of a performance guarantee to ensure compliance with any condition attached by the Planning Board; or any other conditions, restriction, or safeguard that would uphold the spirit and intent of this Ordinance.

**Statement of Intent**: To allow the Planning Board to require a performance guarantee be established to ensure the compliance of any condition attached to conditional use permit.
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)
Wendy Cowan
Elaine Folsom
Christopher Rosen

**Water District Trustee:**
For 3 years (vote for one)
Edwin Amerman

**Sanitary District Trustee:**
For 3 years (vote for two)
Jay Randall
John Randall, Jr.

**Budget Committee Member:**
For 3 years (vote for not more than four)
Maurice Dolbec
Craig Linscott
Ann Plante
Lendell Quint

**MSAD #60 School Director:**
For 3 years (vote for one)
Jaqueline Alwin

**Cemetery Trustee:**
For 3 years (vote for two)
Dale Clock
Michael Johnson, Sr.

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**Waste Handling Agreement**

This past year, the Town of North Berwick in conjunction with 12 other York County Communities, renegotiated the Waste Handling Agreement with Casella Waste Systems to lower the cost of solid waste disposal. The renegotiating of the Waste Handling Agreement was a result of Casella Waste Systems selling the Maine Energy Recovery facility, where the town's waste was disposed and incinerated, to the City of Biddeford for closure of the facility.

To avoid costly litigation, Casella Waste Systems offered to continue to take the waste from the 13 communities at their Pine Tree Waste Transfer Station in Westbrook for the remainder of the contract term and the Town's were able to receive the following concessions in the negotiations:

- Removal of the GAT (Guaranteed Annual Tonnage),
- Land fill exposure language limiting liability of each municipality and Language stating our tipping fees and delivery of trash is not subjected to permits being sought at Juniper Ridge
- CPI deleted and now a flat fee increase of $1.00 per year
- Tipping fee cost layout as follows
  - $70.50 for the first year pricing to begin on January 1, 2013 (Reduction of $17.81 a ton)
  - Second year $71.50 beginning January 1, 2014 (reduction of $19.46 a ton), then a one dollar increase each following year.

The result of the contract is an estimated cost savings to North Berwick of $230,856.00 over life of contract.

The voters will be asked to ratify the contract approved by the board of Selectmen with Casella at Town Meeting. Failure to ratify could subject the Town to costly litigation.

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**Town Reports**

The Annual Town Report will be available for pickup at the Town Hall, Library and Transfer Station beginning Friday, March 29, 2013. Town Reports will also be available at Town Meeting on Saturday, April 6, 2013.
Afternoon Session
Warrant Article Highlights:

BUDGET COMMITTEE FINANCIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Budget Committee has deliberated over the budget requests of the various departments, committees and agencies seeking funding from the Town of North Berwick for the ensuing year. The Budget Committee met on six occasions during the month of February and March and has recommended the FY 2014 budget.

If the Budget Committee recommendations are followed, the total budget will decrease by $133,959.00 or a 3.42% increase and the amount needed from Taxation to fund the budget will decrease by $17,039.00. It is anticipated that approval of this budget will not have an impact on the tax rate.

LD #1 Limitations

In January of 2005, the Maine Legislature passed a law which in effect caps the amount of taxes a Town may raise without a referendum vote. As part of every budget year, each Town must determine it’s own individual 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. Below is the analysis of the LD#1 cap on the Town of North Berwick for FY2014:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Town of North Berwick Property Tax Levy Limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computation FY2014 (MRSA 5721-A.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth Limitation Factor (9/2/2012)</td>
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<td>Property Growth Factor</td>
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<tr>
<th>FY2012 Municipal Appropriations</th>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriations Town Meeting March 31, 2012</td>
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<td>Excise Tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fund Balance (Surplus)</td>
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<td>Des. Surplus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Revenue Sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Road Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enterprise Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Impact Fees</td>
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</tbody>
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| Subtotal                                       | $2,142,863 |
| Balance Carried FY13                           | $372,850   |
| Subtotal                                       | $2,515,513 |

| Total Property Tax Growth                      | $70,475    |
| Tax Limit Levy                                 | $2,585,946 |
| State Revenue Sharing Adjustment               | $ -        |
| Total Tax Limit Levy                           | $2,585,946 |

| Total Property Tax Growth                      | $70,434    |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Committee Recommendations FY2014</th>
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<tr>
<td>Impact Fees</td>
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| Subtotal                                       | $2,125,824 |
| Increase over FY 2013                          | $(17,039)  |

| Tax Limit                                      | $2,585,946 |
| Balance to be carried                          | $460,124   |
The Board of Selectmen's stated goal with this year's budget was to produce a budget which was equal to or less than last year's budget. In order to accomplish this, the Board of Selectmen worked with the Town Manager and department heads to keep all costs contained. In order to accomplish this goal, all costs were scrutinized, wages for employees were frozen at current wages for the upcoming year and the town is changing the health insurance for town employees from a point of service plan to a high deductible and coinsurance plan, which will result in a $20,000.00 savings. The Town has also renegotiated the Town's Solid Waste Agreement with Casella Waste systems, reducing the tipping fee by over $18.00 a ton thereby savings nearly $230,000.00 over the remaining life of the contract. All capital expenditures were scrutinized to insure that taxpayer funds were being expended properly. All capital expenditures were limited to immediate needs or whether putting off the capital expenditure would mean increase costs to the Town in the present as well as the future. The Board has tried to maintain the town’s infrastructure and equipment in good working order while limiting the necessary expenditures needed. Residents will note that that Capital Improvement Budget was reduced by $114,305.00 with these considerations in mind.

The Town continues to look at other cost savings measures to reduce operating costs within all departments of the Town, however, the Town’s budget is comprised primarily of employees and benefits that equal 45.5% of the total budget. In most instances, the Town pays at the lower end of the pay scale when compared to other area communities and have less employees that most other comparable communities. The elimination of positions, in most cases, means the end of a service as the Town maintains a very small work force for the services that are provided. With all this considered, the proposed budget equals a 0.61% reduction in operations costs and a 21.16% reduction in Capital Improvements expenditures for an overall budget decrease of 3.42%.

Initial requests made for the ensuing fiscal year totaled $3,913,868.00 or a 0.01 decrease. After the paring down of the budget, the total budget being recommended is $3,779,909.00 or a 3.42% decrease. The operations side of the budget decreased by 0.61% 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. The Capital Improvement side of the budget decreased 21.16%. SAD #60 has yet to finalize their budget so it is unknown what impact the school budget will have on the tax rate. At this time it is unknown what the funding of MSAD #60 will be for the Town of North Berwick. The Administration is aware of the impact of last year's historic increase and has a goal to keep any increase to the three communities to a minimum. York County has approved a fiscal year change that will see the Town’s County tax increase. In an effort to defray the impact on taxpayers, the Board of Selectmen has decided to take the five year payment option. This will require the Town pay and additional $35,000.00 a year for the next five years to York County for the 6 month transitional budget. The Town has limited say in the County Budget but tried to persuade the Commissioners, along with other York County municipalities, to forego the fiscal year change for a year to seek out other ways to limit the impact on York County Towns. In the end, the option available to the town to defray the increased cost was the five year payment option of the 6 month transitional budget.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed Budget</th>
<th>3,779,909.00</th>
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<th>% Inc/Dec</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Inc/Dec</th>
<th>-3.42%</th>
<th>-3.42%</th>
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Proposed Budget Revenues

The proposed budget represents a decrease in taxes of $17,039.00 to fund the Municipal portion of the budget. The Town is projecting to have other revenues remain relatively stable for the next year. Over the past few years the Town’s undesignated fund balance has stabilized at a level of approximately $2.5 million and that is anticipated to be reduced this year by approximately $185,000.00 in order to help offset increases in the tax rate. The Fund Balance allows the town to operate without borrowing funds to meet the monthly financial demands, while producing interest earnings that help offset the amount of taxes raised. The Town is proposing to utilize reserve funds to assist in the purchase of Capital Equipment, the very purpose the funds were reserved in the first place.

The only unknown at this time is the potential loss of State Revenue Sharing due to Governor LePage’s State budget. The Governor’s budget proposal is to eliminate State Revenue Sharing along with a host of other loss in revenues at the Town level. The towns within the State are allocated a portion of the sales tax the State receives. This figure is to be 5.2% of the sales tax received, however, over the past few budget cycles, this has been reduced to the 3.5% range. This represents $225,000.00 in revenue that the Town could potentially lose. The Governor is also proposing to eliminate the BETR program and replace it with the BETE program. In a nutshell, under the BETR program the commercial and industrial facilities in the town pay their personal property (purchased between 1995 and 2008) tax based on the full depreciated value of the equipment and then the State reimburses the entity. Under the BETE program, the equipment is not taxes and instead the town applies to the State for reimbursements on the taxes that were not received, however, the property is valued at 50-60% of the depreciated value. The Town would lose considerable revenue due to the reduction in the value of the property. This is estimated at a potential loss of $119,000.00. The total projected impact of the governor’s budget proposal is a $0.60 increase in the town’s mill rate to offset the losses in revenue. The Governor’s budget proposal has been met with much criticism from both municipalities and also the State Legislature. It is the Legislature’s responsibility to craft a budget for the State’s biennium and it is hoped that they will keep State Revenue Sharing and the BETR program in the budget. Unfortunately, the State budget will not be completed until late in the spring and possibly the summer and the Town has crafted a budget based on the best information available.

Estimated Impact of Governor’s Proposed FY14 Budget on North Berwick

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dollar Impact</th>
<th>% of Town Budget</th>
<th>Tax Rate Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Sharing Cut</td>
<td>$225,000.00</td>
<td>5.75%</td>
<td>$0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Excise Shift</td>
<td>$10,296.23</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
<td>$0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change from BETR to BETE</td>
<td>$119,015.03</td>
<td>3.04%</td>
<td>$0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homesteaders under 65 would see a tax increase of $124.50.</td>
<td>$354,311.26</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>$0.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BUDGETING FUNDING SOURCE COMPARISON

FY 2008 – FY 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAXATION (incl. TIF)</td>
<td>$1,879,594.00</td>
<td>$1,953,894.00</td>
<td>$1,947,341.00</td>
<td>$1,940,328.00</td>
<td>$2,027,925.00</td>
<td>$2,142,863.00</td>
<td>$2,125,824.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXCISE (Auto &amp; Boat)</td>
<td>$765,975.00</td>
<td>$758,030.00</td>
<td>$717,250.00</td>
<td>$707,665.00</td>
<td>$679,700.00</td>
<td>$657,525.00</td>
<td>$652,730.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SURPLUS - UNDES</td>
<td>$231,415.00</td>
<td>$254,615.00</td>
<td>$243,890.00</td>
<td>$294,275.00</td>
<td>$332,870.00</td>
<td>$334,235.00</td>
<td>$263,115.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SURPLUS - DES</td>
<td>$12,500.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$32,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUDGE HOBBS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STATE REV. SH.</td>
<td>$275,933.00</td>
<td>$274,900.00</td>
<td>$250,000.00</td>
<td>$200,000.00</td>
<td>$225,000.00</td>
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<td>$225,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EQUIPMENT FUND</td>
<td>$109,870.00</td>
<td>$29,830.00</td>
<td>$29,830.00</td>
<td>$29,830.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>$65,950.00</td>
<td>$39,710.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>STATE AID</td>
<td>$78,000.00</td>
<td>$70,000.00</td>
<td>$70,000.00</td>
<td>$70,000.00</td>
<td>$78,000.00</td>
<td>$78,000.00</td>
<td>$78,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAYT ENTERPRISE</td>
<td>$153,000.00</td>
<td>$167,500.00</td>
<td>$149,700.00</td>
<td>$155,700.00</td>
<td>$130,100.00</td>
<td>$134,500.00</td>
<td>$125,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISC. FEES</td>
<td>$213,650.00</td>
<td>$265,000.00</td>
<td>$197,900.00</td>
<td>$181,150.00</td>
<td>$210,740.00</td>
<td>$233,995.00</td>
<td>$237,780.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,719,937.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,782,769.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,619,911.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,602,948.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,710,835.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,911,868.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,779,909.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In an effort to keep costs down, the Board of Selectmen have sought to reduce the amount of Capital Expenditures made by the town by keeping the town’s infrastructure and equipment in good working order and replacing only those items that are essential for operations. Residents will note that the CIP budget this year is reduced to reflect this balancing.

**Public Works Vehicle:** The Capital Improvement Plan called for the replacement of one of the one ton vehicles this year due to its age, however, this was estimated to cost $68,000.00. The town typically replaces one tons on a ten year replacement cycle essentially costing the taxpayers $6,800.00 per year for the vehicle. It was determined that for $5,500.00 we could refurbish the existing one ton and get two additional years of life from the vehicle, therefore the Board has recommended rehabbing the vehicle instead of purchasing a replacement.

**Police Cruiser:** In continuing with our replacement schedule for the Police Cruisers, a new cruiser is presented in the budget in accordance with the cruiser replacement program established. The cost to replace a cruiser is estimated to be $31,450.00. With the purchase of this cruiser, the town will skip a purchase in the next fiscal year. In addition, the Town utilizes Chevy Impalas for our cruisers and Chevrolet is discontinuing the Impala Police car. Their other option is a Chevy Caprice at higher price. The Town will be exploring other Police cruiser options over the next two years in anticipation of the purchase of a replacement cruiser in FY16. The Town has been able to keep costs reduced on the cruisers by utilizing the equipment installed in each cruiser from year to year, however, a switch to a different model will require the purchase of new equipment because some of the equipment is not interchangeable from model to model.

**Municipal Building:** The Board is seeking funding for three small projects at the Municipal Building totaling $10,000.00 and include; repair of window panels, installation of a sump in the elevator pit and the upgrade to the Town’s phone system.

Window Panel Repair: When the Town renovated the municipal building, the windows were not replaced since they were relatively in good working order. When the windows were originally installed, a filler panel had to be installed above the windows to fill in the large window opening. Unfortunately, many of the panels have become weathered over the years to the point where they are beginning to leak. The Town’s seeking $3,000.00 to replace the 12 panels in need of replacement.

Elevator Pit: Five years ago, the town had the elevator pit water proofed because water was infiltrating into the pit from under the foundation. This past year, water again began to appear in the elevator pit and it appears that it is coming in from the elevator shaft. After review and consultation it was determined that the best course of action was to install an automatic sump with alarm system in the elevator pit to keep the pit dry. This cost is estimated to be $2,000.00.

Phone System: The Town’s phone system is in need of an upgrade to the software that operates the system from version 1 to version 6. The cost of this upgrade is $4,000.00 and includes maintenance service for one year. In subsequent years the maintenance cost will be included in the operation budget and estimated to be $1,650.00 a year. Due to the age of the software, the phone system is not supported by the manufacturer so this upgrade is essential for the phone service in the municipal building.

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**HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

**FY2014 PROPOSED ROAD CIP**

**PROJECTS:** The following projects are planned to be accomplished during the ensuing fiscal year.

**Morrell’s Mill Road:** The section of Morrell’s Mill Road from the bridge to Valley Road has become deteriorated. It is planned to shim and overlay this entire section. Estimated cost of the project is: $45,500.00.

**Knight’s Pond Road:** The section from Elm Street (Route 4) to the South Berwick Townline is planned to be shimmed and overlaid. South Berwick completed their section of the road last summer. Estimated cost of the project is: $28,000.00.
**Lynn Street:** It is planned to shim and overlay the entire road. In addition the replacement of a culvert will be required at the entrance of the road. Estimated cost of the project is: $8,750.00

**Wilmer Chase Road:** This small section of road has become severely deteriorated over the years and is in need of reconstruction. It is planned to reclaim the existing pavement, improve the base, improvements to the drainage and pave with three (3) inches of pavement. Estimated cost of the project is: $28,000.00.

**Beech Ridge Road:** It is proposed to place $175,000.00 of the estimated $350,000.00 cost to reconstruction the section of road from Governor Goodwin Road to Schoolhouse road in a reserve account. The Town plans on appropriating the balance of the road project cost in FY15 and complete the project in the spring/summer of 2014. It is planned to reclaim the pavement, widen the road, improve the base, improve drainage, remove trees along the road for the widening and pave with three (3) inches of pavement.

**Bond Projects:**

In the Spring of 2013, the town will begin work on the bond road projects. Last year, voters approved the bonding of $1 million to improve arterial and collector streets in the Town. This spring, **Lebanon Road** from Clark Road to the Little River Road will be shimmed and repaved along with some minor drainage upgrades and **Maple Street** from Puffin Road to Governor Goodwin Road will be shimmed and paved.

This summer, it is planned to complete the bond road projects by shimming and paving the entire length of **Turkey Street.** All totaled the estimated cost to complete the three roads is $1,053,000.00 of which the town bonded $1 million and $53,000.00 is funded from the capital improvement road funds.

**Impact Fee Budget**

In 2003, the town implemented an Impact Fee System to provide an equitable source of funding for recreation and open space services and facilities. Pursuant to the Impact fee ordinance, the Town of North Berwick collects $500.00 for every bedroom built in the town. These funds are divided 2/3 towards recreational projects and 1/3 towards Open Space projects. This year there are three proposals before the town to utilize some of the impact fee funds being held by the Town.

**Current Impact Fee Reserves:**

- **Recreation:** $71,035.15
- **Open Space:** $55,454.85

**Canal Street Playground:** The Parks and Recreation Commission has been exploring possibilities for the Canal Street Park for the past three years. After much discussions and Public Hearings, the commission is recommending the installation of a children’s playground instead of the current basketball court. The Town use to have playground equipment located at the Canal Street Playground, however, over the years it was removed due to safety reasons. The proposed playground will complement the Mill Field park in the village and provide recreational opportunities for younger children. The plan includes the installation of swings, a slide, a merry go round, excavator, climbing web and numerous rocking spring riders. The existing basketball court will be removed and replaced with a wood chip safety surface that will surround the installed playground equipment. The estimated cost for the improvements at the playground is $25,000.00.
**Canoe Launch:** For the past five years, the Board of Selectmen have been in discussions with Pratt and Whitney about obtaining a parcel of land to be utilized as a Canoe Launch to access the Great Works River and West Branch. This had been identified by residents as a need and was included in both the current and prior comprehensive plans. The North Berwick Water District deeded the old pump station to the Town and the Town has offered to swap the pump station land to Pratt for a parcel of land on the river. The Pump Station land is completely surrounded by Pratt’s land and is only accessible via an easement through Pratt’s Parking lot. Pratt has been cooperative with the Town and a parcel of land has been identified and surveyed for the land swap. The one condition placed by Pratt is the removal of the old pump station building from the property prior to the swap of the land. The removal of the building is estimated to cost approximately $8,500.00 and the completion of the canoe launch including the installation of a parking lot, picnic tables, trail and dock is estimated at an additional $15,500.00 for a total cost of $24,000.00. The Town has applied for a grant for the entire $24,000.00 cost from the Maine Community Foundation Day Fund for the construction of the canoe launch and are extremely hopeful of the funding of the project. The Selectmen are seeking permission to complete the land swap and funding for the building demolition to begin the project. If the town is successful in obtaining the grant funding, then the town will proceed with the construction of the canoe launch, if not, the town will be in a position to seek additional funding from future town meetings.

**Sheridan Property:** The Great Works Regional Land Trust is seeking $10,000.00 in funding from the Open Space Impact Fee fund to assist in the acquisition of a 13 acre parcel of land currently owned by Mavie Sheridan as a land trust preserve and as an extension of the existing community trail system at the North Berwick Elementary School. The land includes significant frontage along the Negataquit River. It is forested with mature trees and has lovely scenic vistas down bluffs to the river. There is an existing trail system on the property that could be linked to the school’s trail. Both the MSAD 60 School Board and the Board of Selectmen have provided letters of support for grant opportunities being explored by the Great Works Regional Land Trust. The Town and the Land Trust have worked together on three other projects in protecting Open Space within the Town and the Board of Selectmen feel that this project would provide additional opportunities for the Town not only for Open Space but also for expansion of the trail systems currently in place at the Elementary School.
NORTH BERWICK SUMMER CAMP

It is that time of year again when we need to think about what our kids are doing this summer. Why don’t you sign them up for an action-packed, fun-filled six weeks of summer camp held right at the North Berwick Community Center? It will run from July 1st-August 9th. The cost is $500.00 for residents and $550.00 for non-residents for ALL six weeks, fieldtrips, and a camp t-shirt. We have lots of new and exciting ideas, staff and trips. The camp hours are 9am-3pm. Before and aftercare will be available through the Parks and Rec. Dept. at an additional cost. The first 50 campers signed up are guaranteed (NO exceptions) and then we create a waiting list until we can reach 75 campers to justify the cost of a second bus. Ages are children 5-12 yrs. old that meet eligibility requirements. There will be strict limit of 85 children for the Summer Camp program. Town residents have first opportunity to sign up until May 1, 2013 and then the registration is opened to non-residents.

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 7th, 2013

Sign-Up Dates:

April 17th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.
May 24th 5:30pm-7pm at NB Comm. Ctr.

PARKS AND RECREATION DATES TO REMEMBER

North Berwick Fall Soccer Program

Sign Up Dates:

Wednesday, May 29, 2013 5:30pm to 7:00pm
Saturday, June 22, 2013
(During the NBAA Cookout)
1pm to 3pm
inside the N.B. Community Center

AND

Wednesday, July 31, 2013
5:30pm to 7pm
At the N.B. Community Center

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

Earth Day Camp

Thursday, April 19, 2013
Ages: K- 5th Grade
Time: 9am-3pm
Cost: $20.00 per child
Class Minimum: 6 Class Maximum: 12
Pre Registration Required

Again this year, Parks and Rec. will be holding an Earth Day Camp at the NBCC on Friday, April 19th, 2013. It will consist of games, activities, crafts, etc. all related to Earth Day.

Please dress for messy activities and for outside activities. Each child must bring a lunch. Each child will get an Earth Day white t-shirt that the children will tye-dye that day.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 2013
Noon – Easter Bunny Arrives
12:30pm Egg Hunts
Community Center
Ages: pre-k to 3rd grade
Egg Hunts: PreK, K-1 and 2-3

Come visit the Easter Bunny, play Easter games and don’t forget to bring a basket for the Easter Egg Hunt. Special Prizes and candy will be hidden for kids to find. The event will be held rain, snow or shine. If there is still snow, be sure to dress appropriately.

NORTH BERWICK RUNNER’S CLUB

Join us on Thursdays at 3:30 pm at the Primary School. The only cost involved is an optional one-time fee of $10.00 to cover the cost of a neon colored runners club shirt for them to run in and keep. The goal is to get kids k-5th grade and families out and being active. As they continue to run they are training to possibly run in some local 5K Races. (The race fees are a separate cost.) Parents must supervise while the children are running. You don’t have to run, but need to be with them somehow in case of an emergency. We are going to try to start back up as soon as the sidewalks and areas allow us to. If you want to be placed on an email list just email nbrec@maine.rr.com and we will keep you updated.
SENIORS

FALL TRIP
OCTOBER 2013
(EXACT COST AND DATE TBA)

Come join us in October for a trip to the Lake Winnipesaukee. We will take a custom coach bus to the Mount Washington Boat on Lake Winnipesaukee where we will enjoy a lunch buffet while taking our tour of the Lake and enjoy the beautiful Fall foliage. The trip will be limited to North Berwick Residents at first, then if there is room left on the bus, Non-North Berwick Residents will be welcome to come as well. To reserve a spot or for more information call Kristie L. Michaud at the North Berwick Rec. Office at 676-3206.

SENIOR LUNCHEONS
FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH
11:30 AM TO 1:00PM
LUNCH SERVED AT NOON

All seniors are invited to the monthly Pot Luck Luncheon the first Monday of every month (except July and August) at the North Berwick Community Center on Lebanon Rd. Bring a dish and join us, all are welcome. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship of other area seniors. Hope to see you there.

SEASON FIVE

More than 20 vendors selling seasonal and farm-fresh fruits & vegetables, milk & eggs, meats, seafood, bread, cheese, baked goods, maple syrup, honey and more.

North Berwick Farmers Market
Fridays 3-6pm Town Hall parking lot
May 3 – October 25, Rain or Shine

Do you receive food stamps or know a family that does?
We welcome SNAP and double their value with Market Match.

Help us spread the word!

For more information contact Sofie Larson, ph 603-781-7601
www.northberwickfarmersmarket.org
Join us on Facebook!
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, 2013.

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TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
2013 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), Grant-Hayes (#9), Libby-Hanson (#12), Dillingham(#14), Stackpole(#15), Brackett(#20), Pray (#21), Hurd(#22), Rogers (#23), Fenderson(#25), Remick(#26), Hurd-Stackle(#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 2014 Fiscal Year. The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their property taxes over the course of the year through a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been completed and commitment set.

The Tax Club works very similar to a Christmas Club Account in that your tax bill is evenly divided over the year into a number of payments that the property owner chooses so long as all taxes paid have been received by June 15 of the fiscal year. In most cases, the payments would be divided over no more than a ten month period starting in September and ending in June. The start date of September is used due to the setting of commitment by the Board to determine the actual taxes owed by the property owner. The payments are made without any interest charges accruing so long as the payments are received in accordance with the terms of the agreement. The agreement is written to reflect the property owner’s budget. If the property owner does not keep up with the payments then all interest that would have been due must be paid in full.

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

TOWN OF NORTH BERWICK
TAX CLUB

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

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

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

Name: ___________________________________________ Telephone: __________________________
Address: ___________________________________________ E-mail: __________________________
________________________________________________
Account Number: ______________________

Map: _________ Lot: ___________

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

Date: ________________

Signed: ________________________________________

Witnessed: ________________________________________

TO BE COMPLETED BY TOWN

Fiscal Year: 20___ Tax Bill: $_________

Number of Payments: __________

Amount per Payment: $____________
Annual Town Meeting – Saturday, April 6, 2013
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!!!