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2006

## Town of South Berwick Annual Warrant 2006

South Berwick, Me.

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TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
WARRANT  
2006/2007

State of Maine

County of York, ss.

TO: Sidney Stevens, a Resident of South Berwick in the County of York, State of Maine.

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Town of South Berwick, you are required to notify the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at the Community Center on Norton Street in said Town on Monday, the 5th day of June 2006, at 6:30 o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1.** To elect a moderator to preside at said meeting.  
Election to take place at 6:30pm. Business session will be held immediately following.

**ARTICLE 2.** To see if the Town will authorize the Town Council to dispose of tax acquired property in any manner in which the Town Council deems to be in the best interests of the Town.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 3.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to charge and collect interest at a rate of eleven (11) percent per annum on all unpaid taxes not paid by the due dates, with one-half of the taxes due on September 30, 2006 and one-half due on March 31, 2007.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet due or assessed. Any excess paid in over the amount finally assessed shall be repaid at zero (0) percent interest.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 5.** To see if the Town will vote to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes due to abatement at seven (7) percent per annum per 36MRSA/506A.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 6.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Records Department.

Town Clerk	\$ 53,338
Total	\$ 53,338

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 53,338

This article represents approximately \$.05 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 7.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for the Finance Department.

Control/Collection	\$ 183,126
Tax Assessment	90,361
Total	\$ 273,487

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 273,487

This article represents approximately \$.23 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 8.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Administration.

Town Council	\$ 10,550
Town Manager	134,349
Administration	151,255
Computer	47,225
Employee Benefits	619,200
Total	\$ 962,579

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 962,579

This article represents approximately \$.81 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 9.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Code Enforcement, Planning and Economic Development.

Code Enforcement	\$ 52,279
Planning	84,517
Economic Development	8,000
Total	\$ 144,796

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 144,796

This article represents approximately \$.12 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 10.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Boards and Commissions.

Historic District Commission	\$ 250
Zoning Board of Appeals	160
Conservation Commission	4,850
Total	\$ 5,260

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 5,260
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This article represents approximately \$.01 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 11.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Water District Assessment/Fire Protection and Street Lights.

Water District Assessment/Fire Protection	\$ 299,735
Street Lights	40,000
Total	\$ 339,735

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 339,735
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This article represents approximately \$.29 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 12.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fire Department and Emergency Management.

Fire Department	\$ 163,144
Emergency Management	500
Total	\$ 163,144

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 163,144
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This article represents approximately \$.14 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 13.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Emergency/Rescue Services.

Emergency/Rescue Services	\$ 90,615
Total	\$ 90,615

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 90,615
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This article represents approximately \$.08 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 14.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Police Services.

Police Department	\$ 580,785
Animal Control	11,058
Dispatch Center	211,104
Total	\$ 802,947

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 802,947
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This article represents approximately \$.68 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 15.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Public Works.

Highway	\$ 616,250
Town Garage	16,250
Transfer Station	339,315
Solid Waste Transportation	76,149
Total	\$1,047,964

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$1,047,964
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This article represents approximately \$.89 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 16.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Parks.

Public Facilities	\$ 34,200
Total	34,200

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 34,200
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This article represents approximately \$.03 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 17.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Municipal Buildings.

Town Hall	\$ 71,103
Community Center	57,848
Total	\$ 128,951

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 128,951
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This article represents approximately \$.11 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 18.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Public Welfare.

Social Services	\$ 71,292
Social/Civic Contributions	5,980
Total	\$ 77,272

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 77,272

This article represents approximately \$.06 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 19.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Recreation.

Recreation	\$ 63,067
Total	63,067

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 63,067

This article represents approximately \$.05 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 20.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Library.

Library	\$ 99,475
Total	\$ 99,475

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 99,475

This article represents approximately \$.08 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 21.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Debt Service.

1989 CIP Debt	\$ 11,835
1991 CIP Debt	66,913
Community Center Debt	110,444
Total	\$ 189,192

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 189,192

This article represents approximately \$.16 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 22.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Roads and Sidewalks.

Roads	\$ 450,000
Sidewalks	50,000
Total	\$ 500,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant and  
Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant Residual 3,660  
and  
Appropriate from CIP Bridge Reserve 50,000  
and  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 368,244

This article represents approximately \$.31 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 23.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Highway Equipment and Fire Equipment.

Highway Equipment	\$ 72,000
Fire Equipment	50,000
Total	\$ 122,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 122,000

This article represents approximately \$.10 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 24.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Town Buildings.

Town Buildings Reserve	\$ 28,100
Library Building Reserve	50,000
Total	\$ 78,100

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 78,100

This article represents approximately \$.07 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 25.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Public Safety Equipment.

Public Safety Equipment	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 25,000

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 25,000
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This article represents approximately \$.02 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 26.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Contingency Funding - Compensated Absence Reserve.

Compensated Absence Reserve	\$ 25,000
Total	\$ 25,000

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 25,000
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This article represents approximately \$.02 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 27.** To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Excise Taxes, Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, Revenue Sharing, Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, and Undesignated Fund Transfer to use toward the 2005/2006 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATIONS:**

Excise Taxes	\$1,179,500
Non-Tax General Fund Revenues	492,780
State Revenue Sharing/Revenue Sharing Residual	745,000
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	110,000
Undesignated Fund Transfer	450,000
Total	\$2,977,280

**ARTICLE 28.** To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Unappropriated General Fund Balance for the Regional Maintenance Facility and to establish a Special Revenue Fund for the accounting of its Revenues and Expenditures.

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Appropriate from Unappropriated General Fund Balance	\$ 33,100
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**ARTICLE 29.** To see if the Town will vote to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands in the Town of South Berwick, this 24th day of April 2005 A.D.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Roberge

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Norma R. Tutelian

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert T. Gagne

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Kareckas

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard W. Clough, Sr.

**STATE OF MAINE  
RETURN**

COUNTY OF YORK, SS

I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE NOTIFIED THE VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE ANNUAL TOWN BUDGET MEETING BY POSTING AN ATTESTED COPY OF THE WARRANT AT:

COMMUNITY CENTER  
REO'S BARBERSHOP  
RIDEOUT'S HARDWARE  
SOUTH BERWICK LIBRARY  
TOWN HALL  
U.S. POST OFFICE

ALL CONSPICUOUS PLACES WITHIN SOUTH BERWICK, ON MAY 12, 2006.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sidney Stevens, RESIDENT

ATTEST TO BE A TRUE COPY:

  
Barbara Bennett

**TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 5, 2006**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of South Berwick, qualified to vote in Town affairs, assembled at the Community Center on Norton Street June 5, 2006 at 6:30pm and transacted the following business.

ARTICLE 1: Thomas Harmon was nominated as moderator, received five votes of five votes cast, was elected and duly sworn by the Town Clerk.

The business session commenced with the presentation of our National and State Colors by representatives of the South Berwick Fire and Police Departments, and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Council members present included Chairman Suzanne Roberge, Robert T. Gagne, Richard W. Clough, Sr., Michelle Kareckas, and Norma R. Tutelian. The Town Manager Jeffrey A. Grossman was also in attendance.

ARTICLE 2: Ruth Boston, Emery's Bridge Road, asked what properties are involved. *Mrs. Tutelian responded that there are none at this time.* Albin Conkey, Emery's Bridge Road, recommended selling properties to keep them on the tax rolls, rather than placing them in conservation.

On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Town Council to dispose of tax acquired property in any manner in which the Town Council deems to be in the best interests of the Town.

ARTICLE 3: Malcolm Kenney, Agamenticus Road, asked how many liens the Town has now. *The Town averages 100 liens a year. Currently, there are approximately 25 properties that have liens on them for taxes.*

On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to authorize the Tax Collector to charge and collect interest at a rate of eleven (11) percent per annum on all unpaid taxes not paid by the due dates, with one-half of the taxes due on September 30, 2006 and one-half due on March 31, 2007.

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Richard Clough, it was voted to authorize the Tax Collector to accept prepayment of taxes not yet due or assessed. Any excess paid in over the amount finally assessed shall be repaid at zero (0) percent interest.

ARTICLE 5: On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes due to abatement at seven (7) percent per annum as per 36 MRSA, §506A.

Council Chairman Suzanne Roberge gave an overview of the proposed \$5,226,622 budget. This budget includes increased salary for the Fire Chief, increased hours for the Children's Librarian, added staff in the Recreation Department, and funding for the Economic Development Committee. This budget also establishes a Capital Reserve Fund for Public Safety Equipment and a Regional Maintenance Facility. The county assessment will increase by \$9,676 (3.3%) and our portion of the proposed school budget will increase by \$232,093 (5.2%). Additional revenues of \$371,275 and the use of \$450,000 of the undesignated fund will keep the undesignated fund balance at \$1.3 million. It is anticipated that the Town's portion of the tax rate will increase by \$ .10.

ARTICLE 6: Albin Conkey, Emery's Bridge Road, and Robert Robertshaw, Norton Street, questioned the amount of the article. *Last year's total was \$69,060; and is decreased to \$53,338 due to the completion of the re-codification contract.* William Green, Meadow Pond Road, asked if the Clerk position was new. *No.*

On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$53,338 for the Records Department.

ARTICLE 7: On a motion by Robert Gagne, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$273,487 for the Finance Department.

ARTICLE 8: On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$962,579 for Administration.

ARTICLE 9: John Kareckas, Parent Street, asked for clarification on the \$8000 proposed for the Economic Development Committee. He added that this was an unprecedented amount of funding for a local town committee. *Mr. Clough explained that the funding is to cover training, advertising, travel expenses, and professional services.* Catherine Woodard, Portland Street, stated that the committee is not needed; "its part of the Planner's job".

John Kareckas made a motion to amend article 9 by decreasing the total by \$8000, from \$144,796 to \$136,796. Audrey Fortier seconded the motion.

Rosanne Maurice, Witchtrot Road, Clifford Cleary, Spillane's Hill Road, and Richard Clough all spoke in favor of the committee and the original article of \$144,796.

Thomas Pullar, Brookwood Drive, asked if the article is reduced by the \$8000, will the committee be eliminated. *Maybe not.*

*Town Manager Jeffrey Grossman stated that many towns do have an economic development committee that works in conjunction with planning.* Mr. Kareckas questioned Mr. Grossman's right to speak since he is not a resident. The Moderator stated that he felt it proper for the Manager to speak on Town business; if there were additional objections he would put it to a vote.

On a motion by Albert Roberge, seconded by Albin Conkey, it was voted to call for the vote on the amended question. (Limit debate)

Mr. Kareckas' motion to amend article 9 was put to a vote and failed.

On the original motion by Richard Clough, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$144,796 for Code Enforcement, Planning, and Economic Development.

ARTICLE 10: On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$5,260 for Boards and Commissions.

ARTICLE 11: Albert Roberge, Butler Street, asked how much the increase for hydrant rentals was. *The increase is \$48,385 or 19% over last year.*

On a motion by Robert Gagne, seconded by Norma Tutelian, it was voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$339,735 for Water District Assessment/Fire Protection and Street Lights.

ARTICLE 12: On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$163,144 for Fire Department and Emergency Management.

ARTICLE 13: On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$90,615 for Emergency/Rescue Services.

ARTICLE 14: On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$802,947 for Police Services.

ARTICLE 15: On a motion by Richard Clough, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$1,047,964 for Public Works.



ARTICLE 16: On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$34,200 for Parks.

ARTICLE 17: On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Norma Tutelian, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$128,951 for Municipal Buildings.

ARTICLE 18: On a motion by Richard Clough, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$71,292 for Public Welfare.

ARTICLE 19: Ruth Boston, Emery's Bridge Road, asked what programs are offered and when. *Various programs are run through recreation including summer day camps.*

On a motion by Robert Gagne, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$63,067 for Recreation.

ARTICLE 20: Audrey Fortier, Rodier Road, questioned the future of the library and the "Day" property. *A workshop is scheduled to discuss both. Mrs. Tutelian stated that "it is not a dead issue".*

On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$99,475 for the Library.

ARTICLE 21: On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$189,192 for Debt Service.

ARTICLE 22: Robert Robertshaw, Norton Street, expressed his displeasure at the lack of sidewalks in the area of the Grant House. Ruth Boston, Emery's Bridge Road, stated that many people don't use the sidewalks. Richard Tetu, Hooper Sands Road, stated "sidewalks are stupid;" it would make more sense to construct bike lanes for ease in plowing.

On a motion by Richard Clough, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant \$78,096, appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant Residual \$3,660, appropriate from CIP Bridge Reserve \$50,000, and raise and appropriate from general taxation \$368,244, a total of \$500,000, for Capital Improvements – Roads and Sidewalks.

ARTICLE 23: On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$122,000 for Capital Improvements – Highway Equipment and Fire Equipment.

ARTICLE 24: Clifford Cleary, Spillane's Hill Road, asked if the Town Building Reserve was a new item? *Mr. Clough explained that it is not new; it is used for renovations and upgrades.* John Kareckas asked how much money is in the library reserve fund. *Ms. Roberge answered "roughly \$200,000."* Ruth Boston, Emery's Bridge Road, asked when the bathroom would be completed on the first floor of the Town Hall. *It is complete.*

On a motion by Robert Gagne, seconded by Richard Clough, it was voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$78,100 for Capital Improvements – Town Buildings.

ARTICLE 25: Robert Eger, Warren Pond Road, asked what constitutes public safety equipment. *Ms. Roberge explained that this is a new account and will be used to update the dispatch console and software. It will also help prepare us for potential future consolidation.*

On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Richard Clough, it was unanimously voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$25,000 for Capital Improvements – Public Safety Equipment.



ARTICLE 26: Albert Roberge, Butler Street, asked for an explanation of this account. *Mrs. Kareckas & Ms. Roberge explained that this account will cover the buyout of sick and vacation time when someone leaves the Town's employment.*

On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to raise and appropriate from general taxation \$25,000 for Contingency Funding – Compensated Absence Reserve.

ARTICLE 27: On a motion by Norma Tutelian, seconded by Richard Clough, it was voted to appropriate \$2,977,280 from Excise Taxes, Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, State Revenue Sharing/ Revenue Sharing Residual, Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, and Undesignated Fund Transfer to use toward the 2006/2007 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

ARTICLE 28: John Kareckas, Parent Street, asked for an explanation of the article. *Mr. Clough explained that the Council has pursued a lease for a facility to cut costs, pool resources, & generate revenues. Space would be leased to SAD #35 and possibly others, fuel & other supplies can be purchased in bulk, and the Town's mechanic can generate revenue working on vehicles for other towns. It is hoped that enough revenue is generated to save for a facility in South Berwick.*

Malcolm Kenney, Agamenticus Road, stated that he did not feel leasing a facility was in the best interest of the Town. He added that such a facility should be in South Berwick or Eliot. He also asked if the Town had any letters of commitment from others to lease space.

Audrey Fortier, Rodier Road, asked about the location of the facility. *Mr. Clough responded "Route 4 in Berwick."*

Albin Conkey, Emery's Bridge Road stated it was better to send such items out to private bid.

*Town Manager Jeffrey Grossman stated that the Council is looking at regional problems and trying to develop solutions. A joint facility will create savings for everyone involved. He added that both SAD #35 and the Town of Berwick have sent letters of commitment.*

John Kareckas, Parent Street, asked for a breakdown on projected revenues. Mr. Grossman stated that the projected annual cost is \$93,000, with projected revenue of \$123,000.

On a motion by Richard Clough, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to appropriated \$33,100 from the undesignated fund balance for a Regional Maintenance Facility and to establish a Special Revenue Fund for the accounting of its revenues and expenditures.

ARTICLE 29: On a motion by Bonnie Gould, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:53pm.

Attest:

  
Barbara Bennett