

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Maine Town Documents

Maine Government Documents

---

2008

## Town of South Berwick Annual Warrant 2008

South Berwick, Me.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/towndocs>

---

This Warrant is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Town Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
WARRANT  
2008/2009

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 R. P. Gagnon Assembly Hall at the Town Hall on Maine Street in said Town on Monday, the 2nd day of June 2008, 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, 2008 and one-half due on March 31, 2009.

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 authorize the Tax Collector to institute an eight (8) month payment plan known as the "Tax Club", with interest waived for all members of the Club making regular payments in accordance with the rules and regulations governing said Club.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 6.** 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 36MRS/506A.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

**ARTICLE 7.** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from undesignated fund the payment of property tax abatements (and applicable interest) granted during the fiscal year.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

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

Town Council	\$ 3,500
Town Manager	136,911
Town Clerk	62,645
Control/Collection	190,870
Computer	49,875
Administration	201,077
Tax Assessment	94,832
Code Enforcement	61,613
Planning	87,741
Employee Benefits	737,750
Total	\$1,626,814

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$1,626,814

This article represents approximately \$1.58 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 9.** 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	43,000
Total	\$ 342,735

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 342,735

This article represents approximately \$.33 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 10.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Fire Department and Emergency Management.

Fire Department	\$ 177,272
Emergency Management	5,100
Total	\$ 182,372

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation \$ 182,372

This article represents approximately \$.18 of the total estimated tax rate.

<b>ARTICLE 11.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Emergency/Rescue Services.		
	Emergency/Rescue Services	\$	80,000
	Total	\$	80,000
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	80,000
	This article represents approximately \$.08 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 12.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Police Services.		
	Police Department	\$	699,898
	Animal Control		12,706
	Dispatch Center		263,579
	Total	\$	976,183
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	976,183
	This article represents approximately \$.95 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 13.</b>	To see what sum the Town will voted to raise and/or appropriate for Boards and Commissions.		
	Economic Development	\$	4,000
	Historic District Commission		250
	Zoning Board of Appeals		160
	Conservation Commission		4,850
	Total	\$	9,260
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	9,260
	This article represents approximately \$.01 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 14.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Public Works.		
	Highway	\$	673,700
	Town Garage		12,425
	Transfer Station		313,020
	Solid Waste Transportation		76,927
	Total	\$	1,113,872
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	1,113,872
	This article represents approximately \$1.08 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 15.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Municipal Buildings.		
	Town Hall	\$	69,832
	Community Center		59,680
	Total	\$	129,512
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	129,512
	This article represents approximately \$.10 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 16.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Public Welfare.		
	Social Services	\$	71,719
	Social/Civic Contributions		6,600
	Total	\$	78,319
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	78,319
	This article represents approximately \$.06 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 17.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Recreation and the Library.		
	Recreation	\$	67,296
	Library		105,902
	Total	\$	173,198
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	173,198
	This article represents approximately \$.13 of the total estimated tax rate.		
<b>ARTICLE 18.</b>	To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Debt Service.		
	1989 CIP Debt	\$	11,105
	1991 CIP Debt		63,288
	Community Center Debt		106,483
	Total	\$	180,876
	TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:		
	Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$	180,876
	This article represents approximately \$.14 of the total estimated tax rate.		

**ARTICLE 19.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Roads and Sidewalks.

Roads	\$ 439,000
Sidewalks	25,000
Total	\$ 464,000

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant and Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 77,088 \$ 386,912
--	-------------------------

This article represents approximately \$.30 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 21.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Capital Improvements - Town Buildings.

Town Buildings Reserve	\$ 25,000
Library Building Reserve	50,000
Total	\$ 75,000

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 75,000
---	-----------

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

**ARTICLE 22.** To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and/or appropriate for Contingency Funding - Compensated Absence Reserve.

Compensated Absence Reserve	\$ 20,000
Total	\$ 20,000

**TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:**

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 20,000
---	-----------

This article represents approximately \$.01 of the total estimated tax rate.

**ARTICLE 23.** 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	656,865
State Revenue Sharing/Revenue Sharing Residual	528,000
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	110,000
Undesignated Fund Transfer	500,000
Total	\$2,974,365

**ARTICLE 24.** To see if the Town will vote to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands in the Town of South Berwick, this 14th day of May 2007 A.D.

/s/  
Suzanne Roberge

/s/  
Norma R. Tutelian

/s/  
Robert T. Gagne

/s/  
Jean Demetracopoulos

/s/  
Michelle Kareckas

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  
SOUTH BERWICK LIBRARY  
TOWN HALL  
U.S. POST OFFICE

ALL CONSPICUOUS PLACES WITHIN SOUTH BERWICK, ON MAY 15, 2007.

/s/  
Sidney Stevens, Resident

ATTEST TO BE A TRUE COPY:

  
Barbara Bennett  
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 2, 2008**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of South Berwick, qualified to vote in Town affairs, assembled at the Town Hall June 2, 2008 at 6:30pm and transacted the following business.

**ARTICLE 1:** Thomas Harmon was nominated as moderator, received four votes of four 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 Jean Demetracopoulos, Robert T. Gagne, Suzanne Roberge, Michelle Kareckas, and David Burke. The Interim Town Manager Roberta Orsini was also in attendance. There were approximately 200 voters present.

Richard Clough, Academy St, made a motion to vote on articles 8 through 26 by written ballot. Audrey Fortier seconded the motion. The moderator took a hand count; and the motion passed with a vote of 90 in favor, 80 opposed.

**ARTICLE 2:** On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was 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. There was no discussion.

**ARTICLE 3:** 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, 2008 and one-half due on March 31, 2009. There was no discussion.

**ARTICLE 4:** On a motion by David Burke, seconded by Jean Demetracopoulos, 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. There was no discussion.

**ARTICLE 5:** On a motion by Robert Gagne, seconded by Suzanne Roberge, it was voted to authorize the Tax Collector to continue an eight (8) month payment plan known as the "Tax Club", with interest waived for all members of the Club making regular payments in accordance with the rules and regulations governing said Club. There was no discussion.

**ARTICLE 6:** On a motion by Michelle Kareckas, 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 MRSA36/506A. There was no discussion.

**ARTICLE 7:** On a motion by Suzanne Roberge, seconded by Robert Gagne, it was voted to appropriate from undesignated fund the payment of property tax abatements (and applicable interest) granted during this fiscal year. There was no discussion.

Mrs. Demetracopoulos gave an overview of the proposed budget. The 08/09 budget exceeds the previously established spending limit of \$479,701. Expenditures are \$15,000 less than last year, and revenues are \$586,000 less than last year.

The budget includes the following changes:

- Reduced hours in the Business Office and at the Transfer Station.
- Additional funds for utilities at the new Library facility.
- A new police position starting mid-year.
- Expenditures do not reflect a pending Police/Dispatch Union contract effective July 1, 2008.
- No contingency funding for departmental budgets.
- New contingency fund for overruns such as fuel, police/dispatch wages, and emergencies.
- Decreased revenues from excise tax and building permits.
- No use of the Undesignated Fund.
- Anticipation of 'pay as you throw' will generate income and increase recycling.
- Municipal budget represents a tax rate increase of \$.88.
- County assessment estimated to increase 5.8%.
- School budget assessment estimated to increase 9%.

**ARTICLE 8:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,626,814 from general taxation for General Government. David Burke seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$1,541,814. Norma Tutelian, Butler St, seconded the motion. Mr. Clough did not give an explanation for his amendment other than to say that it was to reduce the bottom line.

-Audrey Fortier, Rodier Rd, asked if the proposed Assistant Town Manager position was in the budget. It was explained that it was included. The increase of about \$6,000 does not include benefits. The Council makes the final determination whether to establish the position or not.

-The amendment to reduce the article to \$1,541,814 passed with a vote of 111 in favor, 74 opposed.

-The original motion as amended passed with a vote of 134 in favor, 46 opposed.

David Burke made a motion to suspend the use of written ballots on article 9. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion. Richard Clough expressed his concern that if allowed, the same motion would be made on all of the remaining articles. The motion to suspend written ballots on article 9 passed.

**ARTICLE 9:** David Burke made a motion to raise and appropriate \$342,735 from general taxation for Water District Assessment/Fire Protection and Street Lights. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Audrey Fortier made a motion to amend by reducing the amount \$338,735. Norman Fortier seconded the motion.

-David Burke explained that the Water District assessment and street lights are fixed costs. If the article is reduced or defeated a special town meeting would have to be held eventually to cover the expenses.

-Bill Page, Wild Rose Ln, expressed his concern that amendments to reduce articles could be made with no explanation as to why.

-David Webster, Tamarack Dr, asked if the amount for the water district was for the water bill. It was explained that the Water District is allowed to assess the Town for 30% of their operating costs.

-Donat St. Laurent, Roe Fields Dr, expressed his concern that he doesn't have town water or sewer and shouldn't be assessed.

The amendment to reduce the article to \$338,735 failed.

The original motion to appropriate \$342,735 passed.

**ARTICLE 10:** Suzanne Roberge made a motion to raise and appropriate \$182,372 from general taxation for Fire Department and Emergency Management. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

-Norma Tutelian made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$172,372. Richard Clough seconded the motion. The amended motion failed with a vote of 81 in favor, 92 opposed.

-The original motion to appropriate \$182,372 passed with a vote of 132 in favor, 37 opposed.

**ARTICLE 11:** Michelle Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$80,000 from general taxation for Emergency/Rescue Services. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Cliff Cleary, Spillane's Hill, made a motion to amend the article by reducing it to \$68,000. Audrey Fortier seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough questioned what the amount actually represented; is it wages or a new ambulance. Michelle Kareckas explained that the amount requested has already been reduced by \$15,000. She added that there are 3 full-time employees, 6 part-time, and the rest are volunteers.

-Morgan Jones, Buttonwood Rd, suggested reducing the article to \$40,000, and added that their expenses should be paid out of their budget.

-Denise Raitt, Witchtrot Rd, stated that she was a former rescue squad employee, and explained that the squad is still a non-profit organization. She added that the squad is continually applying for grants, but expenses, especially fuel are up significantly.

-Claire Curtis, Brattle St, stated that she has in the past been involved in budgeting for ambulance service and finds the amount requested to be very reasonable for the service received.

Motion and second to move the question were made and passed with a 2/3 majority vote.

The amended motion to reduce the article to \$68,000 failed with a vote of 73 in favor, 84 opposed.

The original motion to appropriate \$80,000 passed with a vote of 115 in favor, 39 opposed.

Bill Page stated that he regretted his earlier vote and made a motion to revisit voting by written ballot. Don Markley, York Woods Rd, seconded the motion. Richard Clough called a point of order and challenged the right to change the method of voting during the meeting. The moderator stated that he would allow the motion provided the assembly voted to uphold his ruling. The assembly voted in favor of the Moderator's ruling to allow the motion. The motion to revert to a voice and hand vote passed resoundingly.

**ARTICLE 12:** Robert Gagne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$976,183 from general taxation for Police Services. Suzanne Roberge seconded the motion.

-Cliff Cleary made a motion to reduce the article to \$950,000. Audrey Fortier seconded the motion.

-Chris Burbank, Hickory Ln/Police Lieutenant, stated that the department currently has one less officer than it had 20 years ago. He added that he and the Chief made over \$30,000 in cuts prior to submitting their final budget request.

-Richard Clough asked what the cost of benefits would be for the new police officer. Robert Gagne stated that for the ½ year it is estimated at \$7,000-\$8,000. Mr. Clough added that if the amendment passes it doesn't mean the new officer has to be cut, changes can be made in other areas.

The vote on the amendment to reduce the article to \$950,000 failed.



The original motion to appropriate \$976,183 passed.

**ARTICLE 13:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$9,260 from general taxation for Boards and Commissions. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

-Audrey Fortier made a motion to amend by reducing the article to \$2,260. Norman Fortier seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion to amend was voted on and failed.

The original motion to appropriate \$9,260 passed.

**ARTICLE 14:** Suzanne Roberge made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,113,872 from general taxation for Public Works. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

-Norman Fortier made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$1,063,872. The motion to amend was seconded by Richard Clough.

-Malcolm Kenney, Agamenticus Rd, stated that transfer station hours should not be cut on Sunday.

-Richard Clough questioned the need for additional money for public facilities. He asked if the Council will use the undesignated fund to cover the reduction if the amendment passes. Each Councilor stated "no".

-Bill Page questioned the change to pay as you throw. It was explained that the program would increase recycling and its revenue, the Town fee for the bags would create a new revenue source, and tipping fees will go down. The pay as you throw program reduces the tax rate by \$.17.

-Norman Fortier stated that snow removal should be looked at. Roberta Orsini stated that she has spoken with the Berwick Town Manager and figures provided by a resident at a previous meeting were wrong. Berwick went over budget by \$100,000, not \$50,000. She added that Berwick has a different policy and their roads are not maintained to the same level as ours. Suzanne Roberge stated that the PWD has reduced costs year after year. She added that the Council will be reviewing policies and will be making changes.

On a motion by David Webster, Tamarack Dr, seconded by Joe Zagrosky, Chestnut Dr, it was voted to move the question.

The motion to amend the article passed with a vote of 77 in favor, 75 opposed.

The original motion, as amended, to appropriate \$1,063,872 for Public Works passed.

**ARTICLE 15:** Michelle Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$152,141 from general taxation for Municipal Buildings. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough made a motion to amend by reducing the article to \$122,141. Norman Fortier seconded the motion.

The motion to amend failed with a vote of 70 in favor, 72 opposed.

The original motion to appropriate \$152,141 for Municipal Buildings passed.

**ARTICLE 16:** David Burke made a motion to raise and appropriate \$77,793 from general taxation for Public Welfare. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-John Ford, Oldfields Rd, made a motion to amend by reducing the article to \$75,793. Norman Fortier seconded the motion.

There was no discussion on the amendment. The motion to amend failed.

The original motion was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 17:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$194,657 from general taxation for Recreation and the Library. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

-John Ford made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$164,657. Richard Clough seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough asked for an explanation of the 18% increase. Jean Demetracopoulos explained that the increase is to cover utilities at St. Michael's.

-Ruth Boston asked if the increase included the costs of renovations. Roberta Orsini explained that we do not have those figures yet. The committees are working on them.

-David Webster, Tamarack Dr, asked if we are paying utilities for the church. It was explained that the church is paying for the utilities while they occupy the buildings.

The amendment to reduce the article failed with a vote of 60 in favor, 79 opposed.

The original motion to appropriate \$194,657 was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 18:** David Burke made a motion to raise and appropriate \$172,472 from general taxation for Debt Service. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough asked why the St. Michael's debt is not included. It was explained that we won't be obtaining the bond until the fall, and it will show in next year's budget.

The motion was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 19:** Suzanne Roberge made a motion to raise and appropriate \$78,700 from DOT Highway Block Grant and \$121,300 from general taxation for a total of \$200,000 for Capital Improvements – Roads. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 20:** Robert Gagne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$55,000 from general taxation for Capital Improvements – Equipment (Highway/Public Safety). Michelle Kareckas seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$10,000. Norman Fortier seconded the motion. The amendment was voted on and failed.

-Richard Clough made a motion to amend the article by reducing the amount to \$20,000. Norman Fortier seconded the motion.

-David Webster, Tamarack Dr, questioned the need to replace the skid steer if the Town won't be plowing sidewalks. Roberta Orsini explained that the downtown sidewalks would still be plowed and the equipment is also used to remove the snow. Suzanne Roberge stated that it would also reduce the amount of contracted services the Town uses.

The motion to amend was voted on and failed with a vote of 64 in favor, 79 opposed.

The original motion was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 21:** David Burke made a motion to raise and appropriate \$5,500 from general taxation for Capital Improvements – Equipment (Transfer Station). Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Audrey Fortier questioned the need for a 'new' crusher if the Town goes to 'single stream'.

-Norman Fortier stated that if the Town goes with 'single stream' recyclables won't have to be sorted. This should reduce equipment and labor costs.

Motion to appropriate \$5500 failed with a vote of 54 in favor, 71 opposed.

**ARTICLE 22:** Suzanne Roberge made a motion to raise and appropriate \$75,000 from general taxation for Capital Improvements – Town Buildings. David Burke seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough made a comment that this article is the same as article 15. He then made a motion to amend the article by reducing it to \$40,000. Audrey Fortier seconded.

-Roberta Orsini explained that any money over the library bond payment would be used to help with the renovation costs at the church. She also stated that Town Hall is in need of brickwork consisting of re-pointing and waterproofing at an estimated cost of \$60,000, (split between the two articles).

The motion to amend was voted on and failed with a vote of 46 in favor, 76 opposed.

The original motion was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 23:** Robert Gagne made a motion to raise and appropriate \$20,000 from general taxation for Contingency Funding – Compensated Absence Reserve. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-David Webster, Tamarack Dr, asked for an explanation of the article. Robert Gagne stated that this account covers the expense of vacation and sick time buyout when an employee leaves the Town. He added that this account is looked at favorably by bonding agencies.

The motion to appropriate \$20,000 was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 24:** Suzanne Roberge made a motion to raise and appropriate \$50,000 from the Undesignated Fund for Contingency Funding – Reserve Account. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough stated that the article was redundant. He added that it would give the Council the authority to spend the funds without going back to the voters for approval. Suzanne Roberge explained that the Council is facing two uncertainties that this article will help cover. The proposed budget does not include the renegotiation of the police/dispatch union contract, and the Council only budgeted fuel at \$3.25 per gallon.

The article was voted on and failed with a vote of 61 in favor, 64 opposed.

**ARTICLE 25:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,104,700 from Excise Taxes, \$671,724 from Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, \$450,000 from State Revenue Sharing, and \$110,000 from Homestead Exemption Reimbursement for a total of \$2,336,424 to use toward the 2008/2009 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation. Robert Gagne seconded the motion.

There was no discussion. The article was voted on and passed.

**ARTICLE 26:** The moderator announced that article 26 would be voted on by written ballot.

David Burke made a motion to increase the property tax levy limit of \$2,388,974 established for the Town of South Berwick by State law in the event that the municipal budget approved under the preceding articles will result in a tax commitment that is greater than that property tax levy limit. Suzanne Roberge seconded the motion.



-Richard Clough recommended that the article be defeated.

-David Webster, Tamarack Dr, asked if this would be an annual vote or if this is a permanent increase. Roberta Orsini explained that it would increase the LD1 limit permanently.

-Bill Straub, Brattle St, stated that the Council has had a tough time trying to present a reasonable budget. He urged support of the motion and added that it was "time to close the deal".

-Audrey Fortier asked for the new amount over the limit we are after making the cuts tonight. Roberta Orsini stated that it looks like \$52,490. Mrs. Orsini went on to explain that the Town's levy limit is \$2,388,974. As presented, the budget would have increased this limit by \$479,701. \$236,711 is a correction to the original calculation made the first year the LD1 limit went into effect. The former assessing agents made an error in the calculation by using the homestead reimbursement revenue twice. Approving the article would allow for the correction and increase the limit by \$242,990 (before the amendments).

-John Kareckas encouraged the passage of the article. He stated that it would correct past mistakes and allow South Berwick to move forward.

The article was voted on and passed with a vote of 62 in favor, 56 opposed.

**ARTICLE 27:** On a motion by Barbara Bennett, seconded by Suzanne Roberge, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:18pm.

Attest:   
Barbara Bennett

\*Clerk's notes

-Voice votes are only recorded as pass or fail.

-Hand or written ballot votes state the actual number of votes cast.

-Article 8 reduced by	\$ 85,000
-Article 14 reduced by	\$ 50,000
-Article 21 reduced by	\$ 5,500
-Article 24 reduced by	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
Total reductions as voted	\$190,500