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## Town of South Berwick Annual Warrant 2012

South Berwick, Me.

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TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
WARRANT  
2012/2013

State of Maine

County of York, ss.

TO: Joseph Rousselle, 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 in the R. P. Gagnon Assembly Hall at the Town Hall on Main Street in said Town on Tuesday, the 5th day of June 2012, at 6:00 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 6:30 pm. 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 seven (7) percent per annum on all unpaid taxes not paid by the due dates, with one-half of the taxes due on September 30, 2012 and one-half due on March 31, 2013.

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 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.

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 three (3) percent per annum as per MRSA36/506A.

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 this fiscal year.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the deposit of all proceeds from Timber Harvesting of Town owned land into a non-lapsing designated account and to expend those funds to pay any costs associated with the timber harvesting and to fund contributions to Eastern Trail, Conservation, and any other environmental programs.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 9. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Police Services.

Police Department	\$ 716,892
Animal Control	6,150
Dispatch Center	320,756
Total	\$ 1,043,798

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 1,043,798

ARTICLE 10. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Emergency Services.

Fire Department	\$ 159,949
Emergency Management Services	5,639
Water Assessment/Fire Protection	299,735
Total	\$ 465,323

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 465,323

ARTICLE 11. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Works Department.

Town Hall	\$ 78,303
Community Center	71,787
Highway	705,944
Public Facilities	34,550
Town Garage	14,880
Transfer Station	286,640
Solid Waste Transportation	78,598
Total	\$ 1,270,702

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 1,270,702

ARTICLE 12. To see what sum the Town will vote to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance and Department of Transportation Highway Block Grant funds and raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources for Capital Improvements – Roads.

Roads	\$ 600,000
Total	\$ 600,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant \$ 74,472  
And  
Appropriated from Undesignated Fund Transfer \$ 211,700  
And  
Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 313,828

ARTICLE 13. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for General Government.

Town Council	\$ 2,800
Town Manager	119,038
Control/Collection	192,149
Computer	40,417
Administration	148,000
Tax Assessment	95,444
Employee Benefits	786,000
Street Lights	43,000
Compensated Absence Reserve	30,000
Total	\$ 1,456,848

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 1,456,848

ARTICLE 14. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Debt Service.

Community Center Debt	\$ 85,210
Young Street Debt	55,089
2010 CIP Debt	46,504
Library Construction Debt	148,625
Total	\$ 335,428

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 335,428

ARTICLE 15. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Records Department.

Town Clerk	\$ 65,388
Total	\$ 65,388

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 65,388

ARTICLE 16. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Code Enforcement and Health Departments.

Code Enforcement	\$ 43,981
Planning	41,199
Historic District Commission	250
Zoning Board of Appeals	160
Total	\$ 85,590

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 85,590

ARTICLE 17. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Public Welfare Department.

Social Services	\$ 71,905
Social/Civic Contributions	8,500
Emergency/Rescue Services	82,248
Total	\$ 162,653

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 162,653

ARTICLE 18. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for Recreation/Parks and Conservation Departments.

Recreation	\$ 63,893
Conservation Commission	595
Total	\$ 64,488

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation	\$ 64,488
and other revenue sources	\$ 70,747

typo corrected by  
Clerk 10/28/2013

*Barbara Bennett*

ARTICLE 19. To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate for the Library.

Library	\$ 106,021
Total	\$ 106,021

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 106,021

ARTICLE 20. To see what sums the Town will vote to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance and raise and appropriate for Capital Improvements - Reserves.

Highway Equipment	\$ 100,000
Office Equipment	16,000
Fire Equipment	80,000
Police Equipment	33,000
Transfer Station	10,000
Town Buildings	12,000
Total	\$ 251,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance \$ 88,300

And

Raise and appropriate from general taxation  
and other revenue sources \$ 162,700

ARTICLE 21. To see what sum the Town will vote to apply from Excise Taxes, Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, Revenue Sharing, BETE Reimbursement and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to use toward the 2012/2013 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

Excise Taxes	\$ 1,005,000
Non-Tax General Fund Revenues	705,856
State Revenue Sharing	400,000
State Revenue Sharing Residual	139,245
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	135,000
BETE Reimbursement	13,500
Property Tax Relief	154,378
Total	\$ 2,552,979

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$ 3,001,431 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.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 23. 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 2012 A.D.

s/  
Gerald W. MacPherson Sr.

s/  
Jean Demetracopoulos

s/  
John Kareckas

s/  
David Burke

s/  
David H. Webster

Resident Joseph Rousselle posted this warrant on May 25, 2012 in the following places:  
Community Center, Library, Reo's Barbershop, Town Hall, US Post Office.

Attest to be a true copy:

*Barbara Bennett*  
Barbara Bennett, CCM

**TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
TOWN MEETING  
JUNE 5, 2012**

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 5, 2012 at 6:00pm and transacted the following business. The meeting was called to order by the Clerk at 6:30pm.

Council members present included Chairman Gerald W. MacPherson, Sr., Jean Demetracopoulos, John C. Kareckas, and David H. Webster. Town Manager Perry A. Ellsworth was also in attendance. Councilor David Burke was not present. There were approximately 70 voters present.

**ARTICLE 1:** Thomas Harmon was nominated as moderator, received three votes of three votes cast, was elected and duly sworn by the Town Clerk. After the Pledge of Allegiance Mr. Harmon announced that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the 2005 edition of the Maine Moderators' Manual.

Town Manager Ellsworth was given the floor for a brief presentation. Mr. Ellsworth stated that he wanted to recognize some of the Town Hall staff. He noted that Barbara Bennett, Town Clerk, has been with the Town for 16 years, Fern Houliars, Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer, has been with the Town for 20 years, Beverly Hasty, Deputy Tax Collector/HR Director has been with the Town for 28 years, and Roberta Orsini, Assistant Town Manager/General Assistance Administrator has been with the Town for 11 years. Mr. Ellsworth stated that he considers Mrs. Orsini the employee of the year for her hard work and willingness to take on new duties.

**ARTICLE 2:** On a motion by Gerald MacPherson, seconded by John Kareckas, 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.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 3:** On a motion by John Kareckas, seconded by David Webster, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Tax Collector to charge and collect interest at a rate of seven (7) percent per annum on all unpaid taxes not paid by the due dates, with one-half of the taxes due September 30, 2012 and one-half due on March 31, 2013.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 4:** On a motion by David Webster, seconded by Jean Demetracopoulos, it was unanimously 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.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 5:** On a motion by Jean Demetracopoulos, seconded by Gerald MacPherson, it was unanimously 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.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 6:** On a motion by Gerald MacPherson, seconded by John Kareckas, it was unanimously voted to set the rate of interest paid on overpayment of taxes due to abatement at three (3) percent per annum as per MRSA 36 §506A.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 7:** On a motion by John Kareckas, seconded by David H. Webster, it was unanimously voted to appropriate from the Undesignated Fund the payment of property tax abatements (and applicable interest) granted during this fiscal year.

Mr. Ellsworth stated that abatements to date for FY 2011/2012 are \$2249.03. Tax collection is currently at 98%.

**ARTICLE 8:** David H. Webster made a motion to authorize the deposit of all proceeds from Timber Harvesting of Town owned land into a non-lapsing designated account and to expend those funds to pay any costs associated with the timber harvesting and to fund contributions to Eastern Trail, Conservation, and any other environmental programs. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 8 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 9:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,043,798 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Police Services. Gerald MacPherson seconded the motion.

Terry Fitzpatrick, Quamphegan Rd, asked why there was a large increase for the Police Department. Mrs. Demetracopoulos stated that it is actually an overall decrease. Mr. Ellsworth explained that Animal Control was taken out of the budget last year, but was included this year because we are required by state law to have an Animal Control Officer.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 10:** Gerald MacPherson made a motion to raise and appropriate \$465,323 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Emergency Services. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 10 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 11:** John Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,270,702 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Public Works Department. David H. Webster seconded the motion.

Mr. Ellsworth stated that our transfer station is one of the more efficiently and inexpensively run in the area.

Cliff Cleary, Spillane's Hill, asked if the Public Facilities line included parks. Yes.

Robert Siegel, Witchtrot Rd, questioned the large increase in the highway budget and recommended postponing the work scheduled for Boyd's Corner Road. Mr. Ellsworth explained that for the last several years a proper road plan had not been followed and the Town had a survey done to re-establish a sustainable plan to minimize future costs.

Article 11 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 12:** David H. Webster made a motion to appropriate \$74,472 from DOT Highway Block Grant and appropriate \$211,700 from Undesignated Fund Transfer and raise and appropriate \$313,828 from general taxation and other revenue sources for a total of \$600,000 for Capital Improvements – Roads. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 12 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 13:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,456,848 from general taxation and other revenue sources for General Government. Gerald MacPherson seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 13 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 14:** Gerald MacPherson made a motion to raise and appropriate \$335,428 for Debt Service. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 14 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 15:** John Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$65,388 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Records Department. David H. Webster seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 15 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 16:** David H. Webster made a motion to raise and appropriate \$85,590 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Code Enforcement and Health Departments. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 16 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 17:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$162,653 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Public Welfare Department. Gerald MacPherson seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 17 passed unanimously.

**\*\*ARTICLE 18:** Gerald MacPherson made a motion to raise and appropriate ~~\$~~<sup>\*\*</sup>70,747 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Recreation/Parks and Conservation Departments. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

Mr. Ellsworth recognized Sharon Brassard, Recreation Director, for her efforts in keeping programs going and mostly self-funded.

Article 18 passed unanimously. \*\*See correction on reverse

**ARTICLE 19:** John Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$106,021 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Library. David H. Webster seconded the motion.

No Discussion. Article 19 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 20:** David H. Webster made a motion to raise and appropriate \$88,300 from Undesignated Fund Transfer and raise and appropriate \$162,700 from general taxation and other revenue sources for a total of \$251,000 for Capital Improvements – Reserves. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

Cliff Cleary, Spillane's Hill, asked what the \$10,000 was being spent on at the Transfer Station. Mr. Ellsworth stated that he "did not know off-hand". Mr. Ellsworth went on to explain that the Town is looking at leasing plans for some equipment (and police cruisers) to reduce costs.

Article 20 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 21:** Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to apply \$1,005,000 from Excise Taxes, \$705,856 from Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, \$400,000 from State Revenue Sharing, \$139,245 from State Revenue Sharing Residual, \$135,000 from Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, \$13,500 from BETE Reimbursement, and \$154,378 from Property Tax Relief for a total of \$2,552,979 to use toward the 2012/2013 budget appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation. Gerald MacPherson seconded the motion.

Richard Clough, Academy St, thanked the Council for doing a good job on the budget. He also stated that he wanted to clarify that although the municipal portion of the budget may be going down \$0.31 per \$1000, taxes will actually go up because the school budget is increasing by \$0.75 per \$1000.

Article 21 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 22:** The Moderator announced that because all other articles passed as written, it was unnecessary to act on Article 22 in regard to the LD 1 Tax Levy Limit.

Audrey Fortier, Rodier Rd, made a motion to indefinitely postpone the article. Mr. Harmon and Manager Ellsworth explained that Maine Municipal Association counsel has advised that no action be taken.

The motion by Mrs. Fortier failed for lack of a second.

No action was taken on Article 22.

**ARTICLE 23:** On a motion by Barbara Bennett, seconded by Jean Demetracopoulos, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm.

Attest:

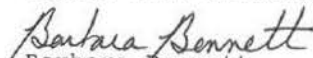
  
Barbara Bennett, CCM

**\*\*Article 18:**

I am the Town Clerk of the Town of South Berwick. I am responsible for preparation of Town Meeting Records, which is a government record within the scope of 5MRSa §95 et seq.

On or about June 6, 2012 I prepared the Town Meeting Minutes of June 5, 2012, it has come to my attention that said record contains an error, specifically the amount approved in Article 18 of the foregoing minutes. The minutes should properly state "Gerald MacPherson made a motion to raise and appropriate \$64,488 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Recreation/Parks and Conservation Departments."

I make this affidavit in order to correct the error identified above.

  
Barbara Bennett  
Town Clerk  
10-28-2013