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Town of South Berwick Annual Warrant 2013

South Berwick, Me.

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TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK
WARRANT
2013/2014

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 21st day of May 2013, 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 p.m. 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, 2013 and one-half due on March 31, 2014.

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 if the Town will vote to authorize the deposit of all proceeds from the Sale of Town owned land into a non-lapsing designated account and to expend those funds to pay any costs associated with the sale, reimburse the undesignated (general) fund for any tax appropriation of contributions to Eastern Trail, Conservation Coordinator, and any other environmental/recreational programs, and to fund additional expenses for them.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Police Services:

Police Department	\$ 735,227
Animal Control	6,584
Dispatch Center	327,802
Total	\$1,069,613

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$1,069,613
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ARTICLE 11. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Emergency Services:

Fire Department	\$ 165,388
Emergency Management Services	5,732
Water Assessment/Fire Protection	299,735
Total	\$ 470,855

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 470,855
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ARTICLE 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Public Works:

Town Hall	\$ 75,024
Community Center	72,478
Highway	703,021
Public Facilities	41,900
Town Garage	14,720
Transfer Station	284,180
Solid Waste Transportation	86,422
Total	\$1,277,745

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$1,277,745
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ARTICLE 13. To see if 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 the following amounts for Capital Improvements – Roads:

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

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from DOT Highway Block Grant and	\$ 74,436
Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Transfer and	280,000
Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$ 245,564

ARTICLE 14. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for General Government:

Town Council	\$ 5,800
Town Manager	123,922
Control/Collection	200,176
Computer	40,279
Administration	146,350
Tax Assessment	96,845
Employee Benefits	789,450
Street Lights	43,000
Compensated Absence Reserve	30,000
Total	\$1,475,822

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources	\$1,475,822
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ARTICLE 15. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Debt Service:

Community Center Debt	\$ 79,067
Young Street Debt	54,434
2010 CIP Debt	54,007
Library Construction Debt	146,625
Total	\$ 334,133

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 334,133

ARTICLE 16. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amount for the Records Department:

Town Clerk	\$ 64,939
Total	\$ 64,939

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 64,939

ARTICLE 17. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Code Enforcement and Health Departments:

Code Enforcement	\$ 52,255
Planning	39,224
Historic District Commission	250
Zoning Board of Appeals	160
Total	\$ 91,889

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 91,889

ARTICLE 18. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Public Welfare:

Social Services	\$ 97,202
Social/Civic Contributions	10,523
Emergency/Rescue Services	82,608
Total	\$ 190,333

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 190,333

ARTICLE 19. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amounts for Recreation/Parks and Conservation:

Recreation	\$ 68,943
Conservation Commission	4,845
Total	\$ 73,788

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 73,788

ARTICLE 20. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amount for the Library.

Library	\$ 112,701
Total	\$ 112,701

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 112,701

ARTICLE 21. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance and raise and appropriate the following amounts for Capital Improvements – Reserves:

Highway Equipment	\$ 100,000
Office Equipment	16,000
Fire Equipment	80,000
Police Equipment	35,000
Transfer Station	10,000
Municipal Facilities	12,000
Total	\$ 253,000

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance \$ 120,000
and
Raise and appropriate from general taxation
and other revenue sources \$ 133,000

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$50,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for reconstruction (in conjunction with the Town of Eliot) of Shorey's Bridge.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance \$ 50,000

ARTICLE 23. To see if the Town will vote to apply the following amounts from Excise Taxes, Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, Revenue Sharing, BETE Reimbursement and Homestead Exemption Reimbursement to use toward the 2014/2015 Budget Appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS:

Excise Taxes	\$1,005,500
Non-Tax General Fund Revenues	740,827
State Revenue Sharing	400,000
State Revenue Sharing Residual	179,472
Homestead Exemption Reimbursement	137,000
BETE Reimbursement	12,500
Total	\$2,475,299

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 24. To see if the Town will vote to increase the property tax levy limit of \$3,066,014 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 25. To see if the Town will vote to adjourn the Town Meeting.

Given under our hands in the Town of South Berwick, this 23rd day of April 2013 A.D.

s/
Gerald W. MacPherson Sr.

s/
Jean Demetracopoulos

s/
David H. Webster

s/
John Kareckas

s/
Russell Abell

A copy of this warrant was posted in the following locations on May 10, 2013 by resident Joseph Rousselle: Town Hall, Library, US Post Office, Community Center, and Reo's Barbershop.

Attest to be a true copy:


Barbara Bennett, CCM

**TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK
TOWN MEETING
MAY 21, 2013**

Pursuant to the foregoing warrant, the inhabitants of the Town of South Berwick, qualified to vote in Town affairs, assembled at the Town Hall on May 21, 2013 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, David H. Webster, and Russell H. Abell. Town Manager Perry A. Ellsworth was also in attendance. There were approximately 48 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.

Bonita Pothier of Senator Angus King's Office was given the floor. She stated that the Senator's Office will be conducting more constituent work in the local communities. She encouraged everyone to contact Senator King's Office with any comments or concerns.

Town Manager Ellsworth was given the floor. He stated that the proposed budget is down to "bare bones". He added that he, as many managers, have prepared budgets as though no changes on the state level will take place until next year.

Mr. Ellsworth went on to thank staff for their hard work. He added that the staff has shrunk and everyone is "completely engaged".

Mr. Harmon announced that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the 2005 edition of the Maine Moderators' Manual. He explained the process and the methods of voting.

ARTICLE 2: On a motion by Jean Demetracopoulos, seconded by David H. Webster, 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 Jean Demetracopoulos, 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, 2013 and one-half due on March 31, 2014.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 4: On a motion by David Webster, seconded by Gerald MacPherson, Sr., 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 Russell Abell, seconded by David H. Webster, 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, Sr., seconded by Russell Abell, 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 Jean Demetracopoulos, seconded by David 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.

No discussion.

ARTICLE 8: John Kareckas 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. David H. Webster seconded the motion.

-Cliff Cleary, Spillane's Hill, questioned how many local towns are participating in the funding of the Eastern Trail. Jean Demetracopoulos stated that most of our immediately surrounding towns have dropped out. Mr. Cleary stated that some of the money should be going into the general fund and not to support out of town projects. Mrs. Demetracopoulos responded that we may not be able to compete with business costs, but the Eastern Trail helps us compete with quality of life.

-Richard Clough, Academy St, asked how much the Eastern Trail contribution was. This year the request was for \$3500, down from \$4500 last year. The budget as presented only funds \$1750.

Article 8 passed as written.

ARTICLE 9: David H. Webster made a motion to authorize the deposit of all proceeds from the Sale of Town owned land into a non-lapsing designated account and to expend those funds to pay any costs associated with the sale, reimburse the undesignated general fund for any tax appropriation of contributions to Eastern Trail, Conservation Coordinator, and any other environmental or recreational programs, and to fund additional expenses for them. Russell Abell seconded the motion.

-Richard Clough questioned why funds for the Eastern Trail are in both this and article 8. Jean Demetracopoulos explained that due to an anticipated harvest not happening, which would have covered the additional amount of ET dues, this would allow for another potential payment. Mr. Clough also asked if back taxes will be paid first from the proceeds of any town land that is sold. Mr. Ellsworth explained that proceeds from any sales would first cover payback to taxpayers and the undesignated fund. Mr. Clough thanked the Council for keeping the budget under the LD1 cap.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: Russell Abell made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,069,613 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Police Services. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 10 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: Gerald MacPherson, Sr. made a motion to raise and appropriate \$470,855 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Emergency Services. David Webster seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 11 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 12: Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,277,745 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Public Works Department. Russell Abell seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 12 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 13: John Kareckas made a motion to appropriate \$74,436 from DOT Highway Block Grant and appropriate \$280,000 from Undesignated Fund Transfer and raise and appropriate \$245,564 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 13 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: David Webster made a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,475,822 from general taxation and other revenue sources for General Government. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Cliff Cleary asked for an explanation of the 107% increase. Manager Ellsworth stated that the only addition was the cost of podcasting the Council and Planning Board meetings.

Article 14 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 15: Russell Abell made a motion to raise and appropriate \$334,133 for Debt Service. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 15 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: Gerald MacPherson, Sr. made a motion to raise and appropriate \$64,939 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Records Department. Russell Abell seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 16 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to raise and appropriate \$91,889 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Code Enforcement and Health Departments. David Webster seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 17 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 18: John Kareckas made a motion to raise and appropriate \$190,333 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Public Welfare Department. Gerald MacPherson, Sr. seconded the motion.

No discussion. Article 18 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 19: David Webster made a motion to raise and appropriate \$73,788 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Recreation/Parks and Conservation Departments. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Cliff Cleary questioned the 714.3% increase for conservation. Jean Demetracopoulos stated that the increase is due to the funding of the Mt. A Coordinator position. She added that if there is a timber harvest this year, these funds would be returned to the undesignated fund. Mr. Cleary also asked if we are the only town funding the position. Mrs. Demetracopoulos explained that we are not the only town; and our funding rate only amounts to about 1 month's salary. Mr. Cleary expressed his displeasure that the money is being used to pay the salary of a non-South Berwick employee.

Article 19 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 20: Russell Abell made a motion to raise and appropriate \$112,701 from general taxation and other revenue sources for the Library. Gerald MacPherson, Sr. seconded the motion. No Discussion. Article 20 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 21: Gerald MacPherson, Sr. made a motion to appropriate \$120,000 from Undesignated Fund Transfer and raise and appropriate \$133,000 from general taxation and other revenue sources for a total of \$253,000 for Capital Improvements – Reserves. Russell Abell seconded the motion.

Article 21 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 22: Jean Demetracopoulos made a motion to appropriate \$50,000 from Undesignated Fund Balance for reconstruction of the Shorey's Bridge (in conjunction with the Town of Eliot). David Webster seconded the motion.

Article 22 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 23 John Kareckas made a motion to apply \$1,005,500 from Excise Taxes, \$740,827 from Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, \$400,000 from State Revenue Sharing, \$179,472 from State Revenue Sharing Residual, \$137,000 from Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, \$12,500 from BETE Reimbursement, for a total of \$2,475,299 to use toward the 2013/2014 budget appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation. David Webster seconded the motion.

Article 23 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 24: David Webster made a motion to pass over article 24. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion. The Moderator explained that because all other articles passed as written, Article 24 (LD 1 Tax Levy Limit) was unnecessary.

The motion to pass over Article 24 passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 25: On a motion by John Kareckas, seconded by Jean Demetracopoulos, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm.

Attest:


Barbara Bennett, CCM