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## Town of South Berwick Annual Warrant 2014

South Berwick, Me.

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TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
WARRANT  
2014/2015

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 20th of May 2014, 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, 2014 and one-half due on March 31, 2015.

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS: Adoption

ARTICLE 4. To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Tax Collector to accept pre-payment 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 MRS A36/506A.

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 or 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 | \$ 746,779     |
| Animal Control    | 8,430          |
| Dispatch Center   | <u>330,252</u> |
| Total             | \$1,085,461    |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$1,085,461 |
|---|-------------|

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

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Town Clerk | \$ 66,151 |
| Total      | \$ 66,151 |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 66,151 |
|---|-----------|

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

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Code Enforcement             | \$ 54,053  |
| Planning                     | 39,526     |
| Historic District Commission | 250        |
| Zoning Board of Appeals      | <u>160</u> |
| Total                        | \$ 93,989  |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 93,989 |
|---|-----------|

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

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Social Services            | \$ 80,860     |
| Social/Civic Contributions | 10,923        |
| Emergency/Rescue Services  | <u>81,986</u> |
| Total                      | \$ 173,769    |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 173,769 |
|---|------------|

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

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Recreation              | \$ 75,042    |
| Conservation Commission | <u>4,845</u> |
| Total                   | \$ 79,887    |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 79,887 |
|---|-----------|

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

|         |                   |
|---------|-------------------|
| Library | \$ <u>123,786</u> |
| Total   | \$ 123,786        |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 123,786 |
|---|------------|

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     | 40,000        |
| Transfer Station     | 15,000        |
| Municipal Facilities | 15,000        |
| Shorey's Bridge      | <u>50,000</u> |
| Total                | \$ 316,000    |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Appropriate from Undesignated Fund Balance and                        | \$ 170,000 |
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 146,000 |

ARTICLE 22. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the following amount for Capital Improvements - Police Station Reserve:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Police Station Reserve | \$ <u>20,000</u> |
| Total                  | \$ 20,000        |

TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Raise and appropriate from general taxation and other revenue sources | \$ 20,000 |
|---|-----------|



**TOWN OF SOUTH BERWICK  
TOWN MEETING  
MAY 20, 2014**

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 20, 2014 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 Russell H. Abell. Town Manager Perry A. Ellsworth was also in attendance. David H. Webster was not present. There were approximately 40 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.

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 Russell Abell, seconded by Gerald MacPherson, Sr., 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 Gerald MacPherson, Sr., seconded by John Kareckas, 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, 2014 and one-half due on March 31, 2015.

No discussion.

**ARTICLE 4:** On a motion by John Kareckas, 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 Russell Abell, 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 Jean Demetracopoulos, 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 Russell Abell, seconded by Gerald MacPherson, Sr., 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:** Gerald MacPherson 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. John Kareckas seconded the motion.

-Suzanne Roberge, Berwick Road, asked if the Town anticipates any timber harvesting this year. Mrs. Demetracopoulos stated that we are working on it; if boundary lines work out. Ms. Roberge also asked if the designated account had already been established. Mrs. Demetracopoulos replied not yet.

Article 8 passed as written.

**ARTICLE 9:** John Kareckas 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. Jean Demetracopoulos seconded the motion.

-Suzanne Roberge, Berwick Road, asked if the Town intends to authorize any Town owned land to be sold. Mrs. Demetracopoulos stated that there is a pending Purchase & Sale Agreement with the Great Works Regional Land Trust: which will not close until after the start of the next fiscal year (covered by this budget). Ms. Roberge asked how many lots.

**ARTICLE 22:** The body voted to raise and appropriate \$20,000 from general taxation and other revenue sources for Capital Improvements – Police Station Reserve.

**ARTICLE 23** The body voted to apply \$1,055,000 from Excise Taxes, \$731,558 from Non-Tax General Fund Revenues, \$345,643 from State Revenue Sharing, \$141,400 from State Revenue Sharing Residual, \$140,000 from Homestead Exemption Reimbursement, and \$12,000 from BETE Reimbursement, for a total of \$2,425,601 to use toward the 2014/2015 budget appropriations, thereby decreasing the amount to be raised by taxation.

**ARTICLE 24:** Mr. Harmon explained that because the preceding articles had been adopted the budget would not exceed the LD1 Tax Levy Limit. [The budget is \$15,481 under the limit]

On a motion by Barbara Bennett, seconded by John Kareckas, it was unanimously voted to pass over Article 24.

**ARTICLE 25:** On a motion by Jean Demetracopoulos, seconded by Richard Clough, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:58pm.

Attest:

  
Barbara Bennett, CCM