



The Quamphegan

From the Manager's Desk

We have survived a winter that never wanted to end and emerged with a full plate of projects as we move through the summer season. The staff and I are energized and ready to go, after working most of the spring to present you with a budget that meets the needs of the community but remains bound to a sustainable mode of operations.

We are close to having senior housing here in South Berwick. We have been working with AVESTA Housing of Portland for the last couple of years and funding has been secured to allow the project to start in late fall. AVESTA will purchase the land adjacent to the library and Central School and construction will continue through the winter with the project being completed prior to the Strawberry Festival next year. Twenty-eight new units will be the result of this project. The Town will receive \$285,000 for .67 acres and an additional \$50,000 for improvements to the Young Street Parking Lot. Annual taxes will be \$20,000 as well as annual leased parking fees. Our partnership with AVESTA in making this happen will result in the upgrade and completion of the library entrance and parking areas. We will have to close the pathway access to the Central School during the construction period but a plan is being developed between the School Board and Town Councilors to assure the safety of our children during the start and ending of school days.

The Town has secured grant funding that will pay for the entire cost of adding solar panels to generate electricity at the library. By selling electricity to the grid and taking a credit on our monthly bill we should be able to reduce our \$8,000 plus annual electricity bill. These pan-

els, coupled with the Geo Thermal system are part of our "green" commitment that we made during the construction process.

Route 236 has been an issue with traffic issues and accidents for what might seem an eternity. We have been able to secure funding through the Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System (KACTS) to fund this project. This cooperative venture includes Federal, State, and local funds. The Town has fiscal responsibility for 10% (or \$55,000) towards the project which is scheduled for the summer of 2015. Movement of the entrance from Academy Street, narrowing of the roadway, turning lanes for Academy and Vine Streets, center islands, and a reduction in the speed limit to 35 miles per hour are all planned. In addition we have been working with RSU 35 Management and Board of Directors to establish a School Zone in front of the Great Works School which would further reduce speed during the start and ending of the school day.

Our primary road project this summer will be Agamenticus Road. We continue to play catch up with our road systems but are starting to enjoy the benefits of your support of \$600,000 annually for major road work. The following are the real costs per mile for road maintenance:

- Shim and overlay: \$90,000 per mile
- Partial rebuild (reclaim, add gravel): \$350,000 per mile
- Complete rebuild: \$520,000 per mile

With 66 miles of summer roads to maintain we continue to do sections of the worst or most traveled roads first. We ask for your patience

and support as we expend funds in a pro-active manner.

At the close of the fiscal year reductions in funding had taken its toll on South Berwick Rescue. The Chief, Bill Reichert, did all that he could do to salvage the operation. The end result was an agreement with York Ambulance Association to take over the operations. Bill worked diligently to make sure that they would provide the same level of service that South Berwick Rescue has supplied us for decades. The new contract between South Berwick and York Ambulance Association maintains the same subsidy for three years, the same ambulance in-house at the Community Center, most of the same great employees, and 24/7 service to the area. We were fortunate to be able to facilitate the transition and look forward to the success of continuing operations.

I would be remiss not to mention the great people that I work with and for. As I near my four year anniversary and look back, we would not have been able to accomplish what we have without the spirit of cooperation and collaboration being ever present. My door remains open and your thoughts and needs are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Perry A. Ellsworth

York Ambulance Now Serving Our Community

York Ambulance Association, Inc. has contracted with South Berwick and Rollinsford, NH to provide emergency medical services effective July 1, 2014. A seamless transition was planned so that the citizens of York, South Berwick and Rollinsford would not notice a difference in response time or the care received. The York station will maintain its 3 ambulances and full time staff at their station, while South Berwick will house a 4th ambulance and their full time staff.

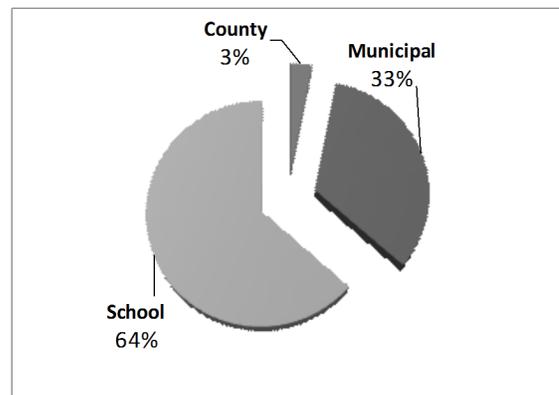
York Ambulance will keep the same values and autonomy as South Berwick Rescue did for South Berwick and Rollinsford. Both organizations are non-profit and receive support from memberships in their respective towns.

York Ambulance's expertise will only enhance the services provided for all community members in all three towns. York Ambulance will continue to meet the industry standard to respond to 911 calls in less than 10 minutes, 90% of the time by keeping stations open in both York and South Berwick 24/7.

As has always been the case, critically ill patients will be transported to the closest appropriate facility and the patient's hospital preference will be honored whenever possible.

For additional information or questions, please contact Mary Andrews, York Ambulance Board President, 207-363-4403.

Tax Information



The tax rate is comprised of three separate assessments as shown in the graph above. The School District assessment is the largest at 64%, the Municipal portion represents 33% and the County assessment is 3%.

The tax rate for 2014-2015 has been set at 17.70 mils. This equates to \$17.70 per \$1,000 valuation or approximately \$102 on the average home value of \$227,000.

If you have any questions about the municipal assessment please call the Town Manager at 384-3300, ext. 115. For the school assessment please call the Superintendent's office at 439-2438, and for the county please call the County Commissioner's office at 324-1571.

Nomination Papers

For anyone interested in running for Town Council or School Board at the November 4th election, nomination papers will be available from the Town Clerk beginning Monday, August 11th.

There are 2 Town Council seats, each for a 3yr term, and 1 School Board seat for a 3yr term.

Papers must be returned to the Town Clerk before 1:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2014.

Strawberry Festival

Once again the South Berwick Strawberry Festival was a huge success this summer with lots of people in attendance. This success was due mainly to the large number of community volunteers who help out with the hulling on Friday and all the work that goes on Saturday under the Strawberry Tent, Information Booth and break down of the festival grounds.

The committee members would like to thank you very much for making the festival a success and helping to raise money for some of our non-profit groups in town. The committee was able to award 10 grants totaling over \$10,000. Again, thank you and we hope to see you again next year.

Sewer District Has Moved

The South Berwick Sewer District office has moved to 293C Main Street, directly across from the Post Office. Payments may be made in person weekdays from 9 to 4:30, and after hours at a deposit box.

Assessing News

Why is the previous owner on your tax bill?

Maine Law requires the taxes to be committed in the name of the owner (s) of record as of April 1. You purchased your property after April 1.

However, for practical purposes we want to make sure we recognize you as the new owner so you can pay your tax bill, therefore, you are listed as the "In-Care-Of" owner for both the September 2014 and March 2015 bills.

Yellow Dot Program

Recently, members of the South Berwick Police Department and Fire & Rescue met with seniors at the South Berwick Community Center to kick off the Yellow Dot Program. The Yellow Dot Program is a free nationwide program to assist first responders in the first "golden hour" after a crash or medical emergency involving occupants of a motor vehicle. Placing the yellow dot sticker in the lower left corner of your vehicle's rear window notifies first responders that there is vital medical information in the vehicle's glove box. This information is extremely important when a person is in medical distress and cannot speak to the first responders.

Each Yellow Dot envelope contains a personal information sheet and a yellow window decal. There should be one personal information sheet for every person that regularly uses the vehicle. Fill the sheet out with pencil to allow for easy updating whenever medical information changes. Store the information sheets in the yellow envelope and keep in the glove compartment of the vehicle. This program was met with great success and many packets were given out at the kick-off. Full packets can be obtained from South Berwick Police, South Berwick Fire or York Ambulance (formerly South Berwick Rescue).

Library News

Have you noticed how many more programs we have been able to host at the library so far this year? There has been something for everyone: author talks and readings, Gotta See It film series, Lego Club, Lawyers in Libraries, beginning computer classes, Knitter's Group, gardening classes, yoga, and some Bicentennial celebration and history programs as well as our usual story times and book discussion groups.

Much of this additional activity has been generated by volunteers through the Friends of the Library program committee and funds raised by the Friends. Have an idea? We would love to have you join in and help us expand our offerings.

The Library has an unusual service to offer: we have a collection of 35 themed cake pans you borrow for kid's birthday parties. Search "cake pan" in the library catalog and find the superhero, holiday, or special shape you need!

Work will soon begin on the steeple of the library thanks to a grant from the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust and furniture has arrived for the teen area.

We are preparing for the future by readying the library collection so we can join a program that will expand our services through sharing collections with other small libraries. This project is in the early stages and will require us to issue new library cards at some point this year.

Community Chorus

Fall 2014 Concert:

"Season to Rejoice" ushering in the holiday season; with Chamber String Orchestra.

December 6th in South Berwick
Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church

&

December 7th in Newington
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Recreation

The South Berwick Recreation Department would like to thank the South Berwick First Parish Federated Church, South Berwick First Baptist Church and the Eliot branch of Kennebunk Savings Bank for their generous sponsorship of the Recreation Department's Summer Camp programming.

This Fall we will be offering Mad Science; Tree Tops Chorus; Wildlife Encounters and Pee Wee Soccer programs. Look for flyers at the start of school.

Tax Club Applications

Did you know that you have another option to pay your Property Taxes?

The Tax Club allows property owners to pay their taxes in eight (8) equal payments, with a payment book that the Town will issue once an application has been approved. The 1st payment will be due September 15th. The application is valid for only one tax year.

In order to qualify, you must have your taxes paid to date and not have a tax escrow account through your bank/mortgage company. Applications are available in the Clerk's Office or on the Town's website from the Assessing Department page and must be returned by August 30th.

If you would like more information, please call 384-3300 ext. 102 for Nancy Crowley or Beverly Hasty at ext. 106.

Conservation Commission

The Open Space Committee continues to work on supporting South Berwick's Open Space Plan. In 2015, we would like to explore the creation of an Open Space fund similar to those of our surrounding towns. This fund would help with future protection of open space areas.

We are also always looking for volunteers to help maintain trails in the Town Forest on Knights Pond Road. Why not take some time and go for a hike in the Town Forest and enjoy the beautiful view of the Great Works River.

How Does Your Lawn Look?

It is the heat of summer, and most lawns can tolerate the heat. So if your lawn looks a little brown, that is ok, you can let it go dormant until the rain starts back up.

And don't forget that lady bugs, dragon flies, and praying mantis are all good bugs that can "take care of" the other bad bugs in your yard.

Visit www.yardscaping.org for more ideas on how to have a nice sustainable lawn.

South Berwick Cemetery Association

The South Berwick Cemetery Association is a non-profit group that manages and maintains the Woodlawn, Portland Street and Pleasant Hill cemeteries. In the past 5 years, our goal has been to stream-line the operation of the cemeteries and make minor improvements to keep these historic burial grounds as places of honor and respect.

With the income from burials, the contributions from the Town, and the success from our 1st annual fund drive, we will continue to move forward and improve our service to the community.

After many years as a board member, Bruce Whitney will be stepping down effective September 1st. We are grateful for all that Bruce has done for us and wish him the best.

