

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, July 2nd, 2018
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock
Others present: Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, Bill Caron, Pete Marshall, Barbara Weagle, Roy Charlette, Dave Hurlbutt, Rae Hurlbutt, Andrew Cote, Jim Morse, Claire Mood, Dennis Charron, Louise Charron, Wade White, Sam Oakes, Randy Potter, Ed Robinson, Steve Sandillo, Julie Boisselle, Mark Robinson, Nancy Mellow, Oliva and Geraldine Tetreault, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Donna Jordan, Adrianna Dano, Melissa Dano, Jesse Hern, Amanda Anderson, Tom Campbell, L. Hodie, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

1. Chairman opens the meeting: J. Weagle opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to approve by: M. Phillips, 2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Water/Sewer and Highway

R. Potter – Highway

Have been working on manholes, there are a couple of drains that we haven't got to yet. Glenn Cassady is on vacation for a couple of weeks.

The crew has helped the Water Department on a hydrant and meter pit, helped at the Transfer Station, mowing, painted crosswalks and worked on the pool to get it ready to open. Doing regularly scheduled vehicle maintenance.

R. Charron – Water/Sewer

Water - Working on making program for DES for mandated cross connection program to bring us up to code. We did the funeral home last week and NSA is all set now as well. Working on it for 4 years; it's costing the business owners money. It's a State DES program, which is part of the Federal EPA.

Winston and Keith finished the second quarter water meter reads, the bills will be coming out shortly. We have been working on the meter change out program. and just ordered another 24 meters. We have changed out approx. 400 (half of the Town). Worked on hydrant maintenance and working on gate valves making them accessible and free from debris. Both water gates were inspected last week, which is mandated every 5 years there isn't anything pressing for maintenance.

We have been closing out the conditions of the W/S contract on the Brooklyn St., Winter and Roaring Brook project, we had a meeting today. The Mill project all

the water is hooked up, we flushed and chlorinated last week. They are in clean up mode now, waiting for the pump station to be finished. From the office building over to the Town line is all that's left to dig up.

Sewer – Charron said Father's Day was spent on Brooklyn St. The power to the pump station wasn't working right. It was a job that was in the plans. Busy with mowing, etc.

M. Phillips asked about Brooklyn St. and the residence's concerns. Charron reviewed. With the sidewalk being removed, it's a ditch line now. The driveways aren't as bad as originally said.

- b. Continued discussion/plans for curbside service, tentative proposal from new business. C. Wheelock said we realize the problems; there has been a lot going on in the background. Wheelock will be making a motion to officially end the contract with Earley. We had someone that was interested in taking it over, but they had an employee retire and withdrew. There is another party interested, which we will hear about tonight. They are still several weeks away from being able to provide curbside pick-up.

Brian Hurlbutt is retired as of last Saturday, June 30th. He is now a part time employee and can work up to 24 hours/week. He will spend his time at the Transfer Station and the hours will be changed to better accommodate residents work schedules. The Highway department will do the transfers to Berlin.

C. Wheelock reviewed the Transfer Station hours. This week it will be open Tuesday and Thursday 10 am – 6 pm; Saturday – 8 am – 4 pm. Next week we will go back to Tuesday & Wednesday 10 am – 6 pm; Saturday 8 am - 4 pm. This scheduled will stay in place until the curbside p/u is resolved. We are asking people to help – ask your neighbor if they need help. There is a lot beside the road or on the curb. It's the resident's responsibility to take care of their trash. Steve Sandillo has offered to help people that can't get their trash to the Transfer Station. If you know someone that needs help, call Becky Craggy at the Town Office.

We have been taking applications for a full-time person at the Transfer Station. The Board will be reviewing applications during Non-Public session.

J. Morse said we had the same issue approx. 10 years ago and the Town crew picked it up. The crew is currently on summer hours – Monday – Thursday. J. Weagle said we used to have a bigger crew. C. Wheelock said we have a Town crew that's already stretched very thin. We don't have hours in the budget to cover the extra hours. This isn't a long-term issue, we are working on to resolve.

D. Hurlbutt – relative to the contract with Earley, p/u has been substandard for multiple months. Did we commit to something that we can't get out of? What are we going to do about the next contract? Are we capable of negotiating contracts that allow us to effectively deal with problems, as they arise and not 4 months

down the road. What is being done, how is that being addressed, because this is a long-time situation, this happened last spring. C. Wheelock said we had the ability to get out of the contract 3 months ago. We met with Earley, the discussion was employees, he indicated at a meeting and another time through a phone call that he has people in place and it would get better.

D. Hurlbutt asked why did the Board prioritize the contractor over the citizens of the Town? Wheelock said we have been talking with several companies, no one was able to pick us up mid-year. Yes, we could have terminated the contract, would it be any different – probably not. With the information we had, and promises being made, we had no alternative.

Hurlbutt asked what keeps us out of this situation in the future? Is there a Plan B going forward? Do we need to pay more money; do we need to enforce contracts more strictly? What are the plans for that and what are you doing. Wheelock said the contract that's in place, if it was met there would be no issues. There is language in it to cover this type of situation. When we looked at terminating 3 months ago, there wasn't anyone that could step in. Hurlbutt asked if we are moving forward or just spinning our wheels. J. Weagle explained that we were trying to work with him (Earley), now it's to the point where we need to terminate.

Hurlbutt said if the company bonded to perform and if they don't, what do we get? What are the protections? It's a bigger picture than a single contract, we need someone that knows about contracts and we're not writing them right. If someone doesn't fulfill a contract they still have an obligation.

W. White commented to sum it up, he was against what the Town proposed at Town Meeting approx. 3 years ago. That was the pay per bag option; it might be the way to go now. Maybe a separate meeting could be scheduled to get a vote.

M. Robinson asked if we have looked at covering it in house. J. Weagle said we have, but it's not financially viable. C. Wheelock addressed, the contract is the least expensive option for the Town. To do in house it could be a \$250,000 increase in the budget. We would need to pay full time employees, buy vehicles, etc. The contract is for \$67,000/year. Residents could pay Wayno's to p/u for \$6.50 per week; on a \$100,000 home, a resident pays approx. \$67.00/year. Financially it was the best option for the Town. Earley's service dropped off this spring, up until then he did a pretty good job.

S. Sandillo said until the matter gets resolved, he has a truck and 20' trailer. He has the means and time to do it, but would like compensation for gas. J. Weagle said to be a contractor for the Town, there is a lot to it. A. Anderson said Earley only gets paid if he picks up, so why can't the Town pay Sandillo to do it. Weagle further discussed being a contractor for the Town. Anderson expressed concern with the trash on the sidewalk at a property on State St., the hazard of it and what can be done.

J. Hern asked when the contract expires? March of 2019. C. Wheelock - as J. Weagle said, to be a vendor for the Town there is criteria that needs to be met by the contractor. J. Weagle said the liability insurance required is \$1,000,000; workers comp insurance covering all employee's is another requirement.

Claire Mood owns the café on State St., which is across the street from the residence where the mound of trash is. As a business owner it doesn't look good.

T. Campbell asked why the Town crew can't p/u the trash while they are out driving around in the water truck. R. Charron said they are reading meters and further discussed.

N. Merrow - regarding the trash on State St; the building has an owner, can't they be contacted to request they get rid of the trash. It makes the Town look awful.

A. Anderson asked if there are consequences for people that are not picking up their trash? She understands that it's the resident's responsibility. J. Weagle said we can send a letter to the building owner. Wheelock said the ordinance allows up to 200 sq. ft of trash and junk. D. Hurlbutt commented that it's an expanding problem and 200 sq. ft. is too much. C. Wheelock said there were 60 letters sent out approx. 2 weeks ago. Some of them have contacted us and we are working with them. Wheelock said we've had a curve ball thrown at us and we are trying to solve it. D. Hurlbutt commented in the cooler weather it's not so bad; with the heat and humidity it's different. He doesn't feel the Board is handling it urgently.

J. Boisselle commented regarding the locations in Town with trash left out; a lot is on the sidewalks. There were spots over the weekend where you had to get off the sidewalk to get around it. Can't they be notified to get it off the sidewalk? Wheelock said human nature is if you pick up at one, the next one will be out there tomorrow. Boisselle's issue is getting it off the sidewalk.

M. Phillips asked if we can bill the homeowner for the pick-up. A. Anderson said send them a bill, fine them. Weagle responded if they challenge us then it's court costs. Anderson said there are not any consequences for these people. So, what exactly are you doing (besides working on it) to put an end to the issue. J. Weagle said we don't have all the answers, we are trying and giving you the answers that we have.

C. Wheelock said we are working on it, we have some plans that are taking effect immediately. We did allow some leeway to the contractor, which lasted too long. It's not going to carry on for another 6 months. It's going to take more than this meeting to solve it; it's progressed more over the past couple of weeks than it had been. We are progressing.

Jim Morse asked who is responsible if someone trips over the trash on the sidewalk? Weagle didn't have an answer.

R. Hurlbutt understands the Board has a thankless job, she appreciates the Boards hard work. She feels the liability of someone tripping over the trash on the sidewalk falls on the Town. If we are moving forward, she doesn't have an issue. She does have an issue paying for it in our taxes if the service isn't there. Wheelock said the money was approved and in the budget. Earley has be paid appropriately for what's been done. Further discussed paying someone else, contractor requirements, etc.

Bill Caron – has lived in locations where there was an ordinance for trash. Can an ordinance be put into place going forward?

E. Robinson suggested ending the discussion and moving on.

M. Dano said her husband (Douglas) has been running numbers to purchase a compactor truck, it's a matter of time to get everything in place. They have submitted a proposal to the Town and would like the chance to finish out Early's contract. They are local and want to step up to the plate. M. Phillips asked about the days of service. M. Dano said that's the only stipulation, because both of them work full time. M. Dano said they are looking at July 13 to be ready to go. They need a couple of weeks to get the insurance in place and the truck from VA.

Motion to terminate the contract with Earley Rubbish & Recycling by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in favor 3-0

Motion to approve proposal from Douglas and Melissa Dano, contingent on meeting all the contract requirements by: C. Wheelock

This would be for the balance of the 2018 contract.

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

M. Phillips asked if it's out of our authority to pay for gas to Sandillo for the next couple of Weeks. J. Weagle said it's the liability J. Boisselle offered to pay him out of the Groveton Beautification Fund. J. Weagle explained why it can't be paid by the fund.

- c. Discussion/decision - resident request to send letter to State about mowing bank along Riverside Dr. and Route 3 – Groveton Beautification wants to plant bulbs on the bank. J. Boisselle said John Rooney messaged her and it's in their plan to mow it sometime over the summer.
- d. Discussion/decision - business owner request letter of support for application for pouring license and entertainment – Claire Mood, owner of the Moody Mug wants to apply for light liquor license. To apply she needs a letter of support/approval from the Town.

Motion to have the Chairman sign a letter by: M. Phillips

- 2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0
e. Discussion of covered bridge maintenance –

Motion to repair both ends of the bridge and paint both ends
that are not over the river by: M. Phillips, 2nd by: C. Wheelock

J. Weagle explained there are protocols in place and the Town could get fines levied against us. J. Boisselle would love to see the bridge repaired, she asked if there is any kind of grant that Robin Irving might have applied for. C. Wheelock said feedback from Robin was that she is scheduled (in the fall) to have an estimate for repairs. The basic repairs, that we want to do would not affect the grant/funding. D. Charron commented that there are kids in the bridge almost every night. They are kicking out the boards, he feels the Police Dept. needs to be patrolling it on a regular basis.

2 in Favor – 1 Against

- f. Discussion/decision regarding business application to State for retail motorcycle/utility retailer - The Board reviewed the application.
Motion to accept by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0
- g. Request for use of big ball field - 6th Annual Griffin Donald Kenison Memorial Tournament - August 10th, 11th, 12th, 2018.
Motion to approve by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Junkyard Renewal
1. June Goulet, Thompson Rd.
Motion to approve by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0
- b. Veteran's Credit Application - Surviving Spouse
She meets all the criteria – Diana Harvey
Motion to approve by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 3-0
- c. Annual Yield Tax Certification
\$6,243.50 – one didn't turn theirs in.
Motion to sign by: M. Phillips, 2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0
- d. Discussion/decision annual PA-28 Form
Motion to not use the PA-28 form by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0
- e. Building Permit (1)
1. Bob Chapman – demo of buildings near the lagoons. The fee has been paid.
T. Bedell hasn't signed.
Motion to approve pending approval by T. Bedell by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- g. Meeting Room Use Application – Red Cross – Thursday, July 5th – 11:00 am - 6:15 pm. They will bring their own air conditioner.
Motion to approve and waive the fee by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Holiday Announcement – Town Office is closed Wednesday - July 4th
- b. Planning Board Meeting Announcement – meeting 7/5/18 at 7:00 pm
- c. M. Robinson – the sign on the bridge isn't big enough they don't see it; an ATV followed him across the bridge tonight. Sam Oakes commented the signage is a problem and further discussed.
- d. A. Rossetto – gave the Board a copy of the RSA – when a Town street or road is open for ATV the Town is responsible for enforcement. As he understands it, Fish & Game and State Police are no longer with ATV enforcement on Town approved ATV streets and roads. Because we agreed to let the State open Lost Nation it also applies to that.
- e. Wade White said the park behind him needs to be patrolled as well, there are kids hanging out there after hours.

6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3,II (b):

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public session at 7:11 pm

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Non-Public Session adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Into Regular Session at 7:25 pm.

- a. During Non-Public session the Board reviewed applications for the Solid Waste position.
- b. Discussed the naming of the small ball field, it has not been previously named.
- c. Further discussed the trash p/u issue and proposal.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer. **