

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, July 16th, 2018
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board Members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock
Others Present: Norman Cotter, Al Rossetto, Mark Robinson, Jim Gibson, Sam Oakes, Glenn Cassady, Larry Meservey, Julie Boisselle, Robin Irving, Keith Roberge, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Peter Pelletier, Wayne Moynihan, Doug Dano, Melissa Dano, Jeff St. Cyr, Alyssa Rivera, 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 the July 2, 2018 minutes by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Police and Ambulance Depts.

Jim Gibson – EMS Chiefs Report

1. 2018 we have had 319 calls to date.
43 transfer requests: 14 accepted; 29 declined – YTD
2. 2017 there were 339 calls for the same period.
70 transfer requests: 44 accepted; 26 declined – YTD
3. As you can see we have declined 29 transfers to date due to inadequate personnel/ambulance.
4. We are currently down by 18 calls from last year's numbers.
5. Comstar report: Unable to obtain due to server error. Becky's report has revenues of \$102,853.91. With Fridays deposit of \$10,455.50 that brings it to \$113,309.31 to date. *Gibson said the Comstar report just got in and it's within \$1,000 of what Becky Craggy has. \$135,284.08 is what the total will be once all the electronic funds are accounted for.*
6. *(Previous meeting) We inspected A1 on site and where not very happy with the paint job and corrosion repairs that were done. We contacted the company and refused to sign off on the work done and they agreed to take it back and do a total repaint at no cost to us.* This leaves us with only 2 operational units in service.
We have already had to use the mutual aid system because 2 of our ambulances were out on calls and we received a 3rd call. I have contacted the company looking for a completion date but have not received anything back from them.
7. As you may well know, by now the problems we have discussed many times in the past with you about have started. We have already started having to call for mutual aid to cover calls because of lack of personnel. As the summer progresses and vacation season arrives, coverage has been and is currently our worst time of the

year. The ambulance roster has taken a hit in recent years due to the lack of jobs in the area and the volunteer status of personnel.

Other local services are offering per diem positions, hourly pay and rates that we currently do not provide. We have taken some initiative with working on a building committee to secure housing for both the ambulance's and staff, but the pressing matter at hand is recruitment and retention of personnel. As much as it pains me to say this I believe we are heading down the same road the PD has been down.

It's quickly coming to the point where a decision needs to be made to support and keep the service you have or look into other options. The few people that have whole heartedly supported the ambulance from administration down to staff are getting burnt out. The 24/7 commitment that has been given by so many members has finally taken its toll. The few of us that do this, obviously not for the pay but for the satisfaction of knowing our friends, family and community remain safe, we are a dying breed. I would greatly appreciate any suggestions, guidance and help with this matter.

We've had discussions in the past regarding pay rates. Gibson said the stigma that's been put on us is volunteerism, we've always been known as volunteer service. We've had stipend weekends, paying someone \$50.00 to listen in for 12 hours. People are going elsewhere for hourly wages, per diem wages that we haven't been able to work up to. We've been kept at a flat budget. M. Phillips when we last discussed we talked about what is the right rate? What do we need to pay to compete? What about a business plan? Gibson said we are close to some services (less than \$5.00) and some are right on. The EMT's and Paramedic rate isn't in the ball park. C. Wheelock asked about the decrease in transfers; Gibson said word has gotten around that we don't have the staff, so they don't put us on the rotation. C. Wheelock said we could look at the budget for next year to include salaries. Gibson further discussed; if the building goes through we will be able to offer other services to the community. The transfers are where the money is.

Norm Cotter asked where the money goes that they currently bring in. J. Weagle said it goes into the General Fund to offset their budget. M. Phillips commented that historically we have a warrant article to put money into a fund for a future ambulance. We haven't done that for a couple of years because the funds weren't there.

J. Boisselle asked if we had an increase in staffing would that get us more transfers. Going into 2019, if we know that we can take all the calls, we could project the income, which would allow us to pay the \$5.00/hr. It could all even out. C. Wheelock said in March we need to tell everyone (with a good sense of confidence) that's the way it will be. For the Town to fund for a new building, we are going to need to do a lot more, we need to have people in place. There were 30 transfers that we couldn't cover. S. Oakes commented that we can go back and review the transfers, we've been tracking that info for approx. 5 years. If we could take the calls, then we could offer the wage increase. Gibson said we've looked for different ways to increase the revenue, but the staffing has dried up. The two things that people look for is the pay and a place to stay when they are here.

R. Irving - regarding a business plan. She spoke with USDA about a technical assistance grant (\$20,000). We were all set to do it and followed up with them, but they've had a change in staffing, she needs to talk with Ann Getchell about it.

Peter Pelletier – Police Department

Since we last met, we've opened 4 investigative cases, covered 3 accidents. This is the time of year that we normally have issues, we are busy with smaller cases. Officer Miccuci is working out great.

Pelletier reviewed training that officers will be attending.

We have been paying more attention to Lost Nation / Page Hill Rd for the ATV issues. Officer Miccuci spent an afternoon in that area and stopped one ATV. We are trying to make a showing out there. The Sheriff's Dept. is helping him to establish a plan to patrol in the area.

- b. Coos County Sheriff's Dept. - ATV Patrol – Keith Roberge. The ATV's are new, we received a large grant from F&G for ATV's. We are out checking radar and have stopped speeders. The positive side – people that are out there are thanking us for what we are doing. We purchased safety glasses and are handing them out as needed. Wayne Saunders in on now and has been great. Just having the officer presence is huge, it makes them stop and think. We have been going to all the local selectmen meetings.

M. Phillips asked if the efforts are focused on the roads or trails. Chief Pelletier and he will be working on setting up the best times to get out there.

Regarding under aged drivers – how often do you pick them up? Some towns have different age limits. Roberge said they are working on it, we get a lot of kids that are certified. We've stopped and written a summons for those that are not. There are periods of heavy traffic times; Roberge suggested taking the times to the Chief so that we can identify what the patrol times should be, then we'll coordinate a plan. Maybe the Board could put something out on the web site as well. Roberge said we can't enforce the Town ordinance; but the Chief can. They can only enforce the State regs.

C. Wheelock asked what makes your job easier? We would like everyone on the same page, so people will understand the times, etc. Wheelock asked Roberge how he feels about the kids 12-16. Roberge doesn't feel that anyone under 16 should be on the road w/o a license, but the regs allow it. Roberge further discussed.

Larry Meservey said we've gotten involved with rentals. The regs in every Town are different, which makes it hard for them to inform the riders what the rules are for each town. If we could all stay with the State regs, consistency would be helpful. Roberge commented that we would like to get everyone on the same rules. He discussed the process for getting the State regs changed. C. Wheelock said none of us want to see anyone get hurt. In Groveton, a 12-year-old can ride to the end of Melcher St., but not to the restaurant because we are still at 16. In Groveton the rule changes 3-4 times. Everything on the equipment says "No" to under age 16, per recommendation of the manufacturer; that could be why the administrative committee leaves it up to the towns. An accompanying adult doesn't even have to be on the same machine. He is hearing that a lot are not happy, the flow of traffic is 40 mph; a traditional 4-wheeler on pavement going 40 mph isn't a good mix.

Larry Meservey commented that Lost Nation is coming into place. There are some options for us now that won't take 7 years to put in place. Roberge said the Sheriff will be putting a notice in the papers for suggestions.

- c. Curbside Trash Pickup Update – Friday is basically everything from the funeral home – south. Saturday – is north. J. Weagle thinks it’s ambitious to get all the Friday route’s done. The Dano’s have 2 trucks, the compactor and a box truck. M. Phillips asked if they will be picking up the trash and recyclables at the same time? M. Dano said that’s the plan. Weagle said some people are still using the blue bucket, some mix it, and some are separating.

C. Wheelock said on Saturdays the Transfer Station is busy and people are talking about the congestion. He suggested Dano’s contact him if they need more barrels and he will have someone pick some up from Lancaster. J. Weagle said Becky Craggy is checking on the after hour dropping. With Friday and Saturday curb side p/u; Weagle recommended changing the hours to Wed, Fri, Sat. J. Boisselle said the 10-6 hours is making people happier. G. Cassady hasn’t heard any negative comments. We have a new employee coming in; the part time person would need to be flexible. We could get it out there for next week. The Board further discussed the schedule.

Motion to go with Tues 10-6, Friday 10-6 and Saturday 8 – 4 by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- d. Winter Street Berms – the Gadwahs have the biggest issue, there is water coming down Winter St. that goes into their yard, continues to Haskins and then down behind and to Holly Carons. C. Wheelock commented it’s un-acceptable. R. Charron said the water has been going into their yard for years, discussion ensued regarding this issue. There is a concern that it’s going to dam up, freeze and get higher in the winter. R. Charron said a possible solution is to blend into the back. Mrs. Tetreault was ok with the tapering. R. Irving has talked to Gadwahs and they are opposed to having the berm at all. C. Wheelock thought that if B. Gadwah isn’t happy he will hire a lawyer. R. Irving asked how the Board wants to approach, since we know they are opposed to it? Charron further discussed the issue and what happened at Holly Carons. If it was done correctly, the water probably wouldn’t have gone into the basement. In construction, the road didn’t change the pavement changed because the State made a change.

R. Irving said we are 6-8 weeks past the contract time, she can’t wait any longer. We should be assessing damages. Paul Crane is no longer here, but there are a couple of things that he still needs to do. The quote he put in was high. he wanted to use a slurry that wasn’t acceptable, Irving further discussed. C. Wheelock said if the filling was part of the contract from the beginning and Crane didn’t do it, he doesn’t feel we should have to pay for it. R. Irving said we’ve been holding on to the payment. M. Phillips feels the berm should be removed. C. Wheelock asked who is responsible for maintaining the berm and if we remove it, is the cost over and above the contract? Yes, the Town would need to pay. R. Irving said no one is taking responsibility for it. Wheelock asked what the cost to remove the berm would be? G. Cassady said it would be easy to pull up on a hot day. Discussion continued regarding the berm, responsibility and the water flow. Cassady suggested taking it out and visit when it’s raining.

Motion to remove the berm; if it needs to be replaced, then it will be 4’ in and tapered back by: C. Wheelock

M. Phillips asked about the issue with Carons; the Board continued to discuss the matter.

2nd by: M. Phillips, All in Favor 2 – 1 against

- e. Brooklyn/Winter/Roaring Brook Project Contract – R. Irving would like someone to be on a phone call with her to CMA – C. Wheelock can do it on Thursday 7-19. Discussion ensued regarding the project and contractor.
- f. Electricity Contract – currently at 7.8 cents/kwh; the refresh in May was 8.1 and the most recent one is 8.3. R. Irving doesn't think it will be going down, with the announcement that Eversource is going up by 19.1% on the delivery fee. The rate is 7.7 on a 48-month term. She talked with them about escape clauses, there are none in their contracts, however there is language that allows them to work with us. J. Weagle said we can do it, if there is a way out, when necessary. As a Board we can't go into a 5+ year contract, because we can't bind a future board.

Motion to approve the 48-month option by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- g. Cash Summary – June – M. Phillips – Beginning balance - \$355,000; Revenue - \$1,509,000; Expenses \$607,000; Ending balance - \$1,257,000. G. Cassady has some paving projects coming up and needs a motion to approve releasing the funds. There is approx. \$111,000 in the CRF. Cassady reviewed the areas to be paved: \$44,000 is Roaring Brook, \$25,000 is behind the monuments; \$40,000 - Main St. from the intersection to the tracks; cul de sac on Brooklyn St., backside of Park St., Eames, Pleasant St. There are 8 manholes that need to be done in that small area. He also has the SD grant money (\$44,000) for sidewalks, road paving or guardrails. He wants to get a quote to replace the guardrails on Old Village Road and on Riverside Dr.

Motion to approve the projects G. Cassady listed above by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- h. Sidewalks – R. Irving submitted the letter of interest; after talking with DOT with their paving project. They suggested saying in the letter to drop the project and say that we want to do at the same time as the State project (next year). It changed the scope with sidewalks around the triangle and both sides of Church St., Main St. to the tracks. Cassady said if he can get the granite in he can back fill. \$200,000 is the Town's match. Irving has asked to repurpose the money for Reservoir Rd that was already raised and appropriated. The SB money is use it or lose it this year.

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

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permit(s)

- 1. Shirley Manchester – T. Bedell hasn't signed.

Motion to approve contingent on T. Bedell signing by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- 2. Ben & Tammy Stinson – replacing deck T. Bedell hasn't signed.

Motion to approve contingent on T. Bedell signing by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- 3. Perry – Lost Nation Rd. T. Bedell hasn't signed.

Motion to approve contingent on T. Bedell signing by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0.

4. Judy Szurley – moving mobile home to Dean Brook. T. Bedell hasn't signed.
Motion to approve contingent on T. Bedell signing by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Briefly discussed a building permit that's on hold. A cease and desist order was served. T. Bedell said the resident has said that he will not stop the work. There is a fine - \$100.00/day, which can be attached to the property through a lien.

Motion to initiate fine of \$100.00 based on the date the Cease & Desist order was issued by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

b. Supplemental Warrant

Town Wide drains \$17,500 –

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

c. Yield Tax Warrant (Doomage) –

1. M. Tanquay - \$450.00

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

d. Abatement(s)

1. Mike & Linda Kelly – \$92.30 for sewer only. This is for filling their pool, the water doesn't go back into the sewer. The amount was figured on an average. When draining, technically it should, because of the chlorine. We can't set a precedent.

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

2. Dana Strong - \$116,087.40 – The meter was installed backwards. R. Irving said it might not be limited to him; there have been other homes where private plumbers installed the meters backwards. It's ok if they hire a plumber; but they need to notify the Town and then we inspect. The resident has been reprimanded. J. Weagle feels we need to assess a fine - \$50.00 - \$100.00

Motion to abate all but \$100.00 of the \$116,870.40 by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

3. Harold & Nancy Marshall – Water - \$29.15

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

4. Marsha Robinson – \$1,040.00 meter is in a pit; there was no way to detect a leak. J. Weagle talked to them, they put in a new line

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

5. John & Jean Holden - \$54,841.60 – Winston put in a new meter, R. Irving didn't get the detail of the new meter to update in the system.

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

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

a. J. Boisselle said we've heard about the 60 letters sent out; some are working with the Town; some are not. Where are we in the process? As previously discussed some of the properties are still not getting cleaned up. J. Weagle said the 60 days are not up yet. C. Wheelock addressed the one in the village. He received a second letter and the process was started with him approx. 250 days ago. He's asked us to sign a contract with him that by the end of September, if the property is clean, will we abate the fine. J. Weagle said he reached out and has some help now. If he doesn't do anything, we can access the fine, but he won't go to jail. The reality is we can access a fine, which we can't do

anything about. J. Boisselle feels we need to find a way to make them comply. C. Wheelock said we talked about an amnesty day (with a valid sticker) at the Transfer Station. If we get the Health Inspector involved and its deemed unsuitable to live (condemned), we have to pay for lodging for the resident. J. Weagle further discussed the issue.

J. Boisselle has said that we need a committee that can go through the ordinances and update to fit today. We need to find a legal, safe way to make these people comply. The ordinances were written 10 – 15 years ago and they need to be updated. The Board discussed having a committee, Wheelock asked Boisselle if she would be willing to organize and to explore putting it together and come back to the next meeting? L. Meservey asked if we follow the State ordinances; couldn't a lien be put on the property. The Board explained what they can and can't do with liens.

- c. Norm Cotter – putting up a pole barn – does he need a permit? J. Weagle said yes because the foot print is changing.

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

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: M. Phillips

2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Into Non-Public session at 8:00 pm

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public session by: M. Phillips

2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

The Non-Public session adjourned at 8:58 pm

Into regular session at 8:58 pm

During the Non-Public session the Board discussed personnel matters and a legal matter. The following motions were made.

Motion to hire Alyssa Rivera as a full-time police officer by: M. Phillips

2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Motion to go with Upton, Hatfield for tax appeal case by: M. Phillips

2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: M. Phillips

2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.