

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, November 5th, 2018
Place: Town Office Meeting Room – 19 Main Street
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board members present: Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock
Others: Reggie & Terri Charron, Glenn Cassady, Norman Cotter, Nancy Mellow, Al Rossetto, Chief Peter Pelletier, John McLeod, Brian Connary, 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: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Dept. Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

Reggie Charron – Water/Sewer

Charron the crew has been tying up issues before winter, there are still a couple more digs that need to get done. Charron said there is an issue that developed between him and John Normand. It's being finicky, Charron thinks it's the old corporation to the old house that was there. He found out a lot of interesting info about the adage of 2 lines running down State St. Charron reviewed, basically the 8" is basically supporting the 6". If the State wanted to re-pave, we would need to look at it.

The water at 16 Central Avenue has been shut off and capped. The gentleman that bought it will be tearing it down and no longer needed it. While on Central Ave, we had a leak develop by 10 Central. It was a private lateral and it was on our side.

The hydrants have been flushed on the hill, we used approx. 130,000 gallons of water to do what we needed to do. They have all been winterized and checked.

The new trailers are in place on Cumberland and Crow Hill. The berm at the Gadwah residence will be done tomorrow. Also took care of their water issue that's been plaguing them for years. Charron further explained the issue, which was their pressure problem.

Beattie was here on Oct 20 & 21, got the dam permit done. It looks nice.

The old sewer truck has been sold, Charron asked where the money goes. J. Weagle said it will go into the equipment fund. Charron said Paul Boutin has

been doing an excellent job. He's done all the leach field and got the setbacks and fence all cleaned out. He's been very dedicated. Keith and Winston are constantly working on meters, but we are running out due to the budget.

Glenn Cassady – Highway

We are working on short lists. Cassday received a notice that the budget is down to approx. 10%. Based on recent salt purchases and several other items we are probably down to about 8%.

The plow equipment is ready to go, just don't have the wings on. Worked on firewood at the garage. Stopped by the pool, the sump pump is all set. Reviewed the list for winterizing. The window wells at the Library are done – Al did a great job with the covers.

Will also be do some trimming on Graham St.

J. Weagle mentioned an issue with the paving on Main, near the crosswalk.

C. Wheelock said when he went to Concord and met with DOT about the Rotobec situation and Phase II requiring work done to the Brown Rd. If it was brought up to standard, he would take it to the voters at Town Meeting. The vote would be to take over the Brown Road once it's up to spec. Met with Paul Beulieu, DOT; he's talking about box cutting everything. He also thought out, what if we do the whole road? Wheelock's initial thought was we don't have the man power or money. G. Cassady asked what they are willing to throw in for the whole road. Wheelock said they were initially going to do up to the Town Garage. They agreed up to Craggy Rd. He asked Cassady to start thinking about it; it would need to be voted on in March. Cassady said it's not out of the way, the plow could be dropped coming out of the yard. We can see a benefit for the first mile, not sure about the rest.

T. Charron asked Wheelock to clarify what the State would do. He further explained, it didn't make sense for the State to resurface the whole road and then dig it up in a couple of years. Rotobec is willing to deal with the road as is for the next year or so. Phase I – up to 50 – Phase II – adding another 100 jobs. Brown Rd, Lost Nation and Ball Rd. they don't get any Federal help on because of the class. Wheelock further discussed.

T. Charron said if they are going all the way around; they need to do something about the drainage. If there is a lot of snow or rain, it floods over some of the monuments at the Catholic Cemetery. Wheelock said they are open to ideas; it's in their benefit to get rid of these roads.

- b. Discussion re: failure to remove berm on Gadwah property—Raina and Brian Gadwah – discussed above.
- c. Discussion and announcement of 2019 Budget work sessions: 11-20 - W/S Police and Cemetery; 11-27 - Ambulance, Emergency Mgt, Health Admin,

Highway and Solid Waste; 11/28 – Executive, Financial Admin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Welfare, Planning / Zoning, General Gov., Culture, Recreation and Conservation

- d. Discussion of permanent ramp over lagoon road - snow travel (CW) – During the winter months, midway down the road between Park St. and the lagoons the club builds a ramp. They need to wait until the Town dumps enough snow for them to make the ramp. That section of trail isn't accessible until approx. ½ way through the season. They asked if they can put a dirt ramp in, due to the wetlands the State needs to be involved. It wouldn't be this year, probably not until 2020 / 2021. If permanent it would need to go through DES because of the drainage. MOMs have been talking about an alternate route for those that don't want to go to the store to alleviate some of the traffic.

Motion to start the process by: C. Wheelock

2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

- e. Discussion of inquiry regarding Pariseau property – It's on Brown Rd. and is landlocked. Reno Grandmason contacted the Town to see about painting boundary marking the lines; he is also talking about buying a right of way. There is a lot of wet lands; it borders J. Kennett and MOM's. The intent right now is to just mark the lines, he may eventually want to cut the wood. He just needs walking or maybe 4-wheeler access. Walking should be fine if he just wants to mark the lines.
- f. Discussion of resident complaint received – 83 Brooklyn St., John McLeod
Mr. McLeod had some questions and would like a response either tonight or within 10 days.

1) Did the Town ever vote to not have full time police coverage.

C. Wheelock said it wasn't a vote it was due to a situation with the PD. We hired Peter Pelletier approx. 1 ½ years ago; we have hired another full-time officer and have another in training. It's anticipated that Chief Pelletier will be looking to hire another full-time person soon for the 2019 budget year. Wheelock said we are building a Police Dept. basically from nothing over the last 1 ½ years. Coverage is spotty, we can only cover so much relying on part-time and State Police. J. Weagle said the State Police have not charged us for anything. McLeod had an incident at his home early a.m. last Monday.

Pelletier further discussed the coverage that we currently have. There are only 2 of them – we are trying to cover the busy times of the day. McLeod asked for a schedule of the other full-time officer. Pelletier didn't have any with him, but he works a three-week rotation, works 8 days in a row - 2 days off; works 7 days then - 4 days off. Hours are usually 7am -3pm and evening shift 4pm – 12am. Even when the 3rd officer comes on in April we still won't be 24 /7. Pelletier feels that it will be some time before we are 24/7. Pelletier discussed the hiring process; it's hard to get someone to work here.

2) McLeod asked if it's his job to run ads for candidates? Pelletier said yes it is. He advertises in papers and on the internet and further explained.

3) McLeod asked if it's true that we hired a secretary for the PD. Pelletier said yes that's true. McLeod also asked about the budget are we short in the budget to have full-time. Pelletier said it will be an increase in the budget. McLeod reviewed – so we have less people on duty to respond, but we have more paperwork? He didn't understand that. J. Weagle said with the secretary - when someone is arrested, or with speeding tickets, etc. there's a lot of paperwork. Chief Pelletier can only work 32 hrs. due to a retirement system restraint. We want him to be able to respond to incidents and not spend his time on paperwork. That's why the secretary was hired, she works 20 – 24 hrs. per week.

B. Connary asked why we have a part time Police Chief? J. Weagle said we had 2 part-time candidates and 1 full-time apply. The full-time candidate wanted approx. \$80,000 - \$120,000/year. Wheelock said we try to be conscious of the tax rate. We have tried to build the PD backup; the Chief is a patrolling chief, that's why we brought in someone to do the paperwork. The budget was a lot more when we had full time coverage. B. Connary said we can't put a price on our resident's safety, something bad could have happened at McLeod's that morning.

The woman wasn't charged with invasion; she didn't break in because his door wasn't locked. She has done this several times. Maybe she needs to be charged with something so the judge will order an evaluation. C. Wheelock said for her safety she's in a better place. Pelletier further discussed. She's been in the habit of signing herself out; a family member has taken over guardianship and they are trying to get her placed to receive the help she needs.

4) When did things change for hiring officers from out of Town. J. Weagle said when it changed, (the Board) looked at other Departments for comparison. We needed to get another officer and the best candidate lived out of town. Weagle said the Towns we looked at, some had full time and some only had part time and used a 50-mile radius. McLeod asked where the townships where that we used in comparison, Weagle didn't remember. C. Wheelock said we looked at the distance when the officers were hired. R. Charron commented that McLeod is probably asking about reaction time. We looked at that – it's about 45 min.

McLeod said he called the Town and was transferred to dispatch; he asked Pelletier if he got a call. We voted to go with our own force; we can go back and look, but Wheelock thinks the vote was for a part-time Chief. McLeod feels there are others out and about after midnight. Connary said he's had to call the police for issues in his neighborhood and it's the State Police that come not the local police. We need the local coverage at night. McLeod said it was

an hour and 5 minutes before anyone got to his home, a lot can happen in that amount of time.

5) Whose decision is it to leave the empty cruiser parked over by the dam, is it a liability, it should be at the station and ready to go. Pelletier said during the time when there was no coverage; a part time officer came up with the idea because he was by himself. A lot of the out of towners recognize it and slow down. McLeod feels we are leaving ourselves open for liability if someone stops and has an emergency, but no one is there. Pelletier said he is working on getting a couple of radar signs for each side of town.

McLeod asked if we have any older officers that could be available to respond to a call. J. Weagle said we have contacted other towns looking for part timers, they are just not interested any more. N. Merrow commented as a taxpayer she would rather put money into the budget and see qualified help in the PD.

B. Connary asked if we have advertised in the local paper? Is there an order to the Police Chief to get his staff in order? C. Wheelock addressed; we pay for the training, we've increased the hourly rate. We are better today than we were 2 years ago. We need to find qualified people. McLeod asked if there is a way to have the State Police more available, J. Weagle said they will only give you 20 hrs. and will work when they can – they choose their hours.

R. Charron asked if there is a response time for 911? Pelletier discussed when it's after hours, they wake someone up to respond. McLeod said when there is an accident the State Police and law enforcement come from all directions. If he has called and said there is a dead-women in his house, they probably would have got there sooner. R. Charron commented that we have 2 State Troopers that live in Town. He's thinking of the safety. McLeod said he watches out for his neighbors and feels that an hour and 5 min is unacceptable when there is an intruder in a home. He hopes that we can move forward.

B. Connary asked if we've done any study re: having our own coverage vs. hiring it out. J. Weagle said the State Police will only give 20 hours. McLeod further discussed his situation. Pelletier commented when he worked for State Police, he had to cover Franconia to Pittsburg. Pelletier will talk with dispatch about the incident and stressed this isn't a forever thing, we are working on it and we are doing what we can. N. Merrow commented that it's a different world than it used to be. Everything is driven by State and Federal rules.

- g. Review, discussion, decision on PILOT agreement as proposed – We currently have a PILOT in place with Power House Systems, the same PILOT is ok with them.

Motion to offer PILOT by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Housekeeping abatement (town wide sewers)
Updated software billed it wrong – \$687,500; it should have been \$17,500
Motion to approve the abatement by: C. Wheelock
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

\$17,500 is the correct amount
Motion to accept by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
- b. Abatements (3)
 1. Harold and Nancy Marshall –
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
 2. Samantha McMann – meter installation was improperly programed.
\$221.00
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
 3. Charles Boisclair – Resident noticed usage has been creeping up, this is just sewer \$1,983.
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
- c. Building Permit Applications (2)
 1. Shawn and Emily Swallow, 98 Page Hill Rd., 24' x 24' pole shed. T. Bedell has approved.
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
 2. Bob Couture, 34 State St., New roofing. T. Bedell has signed
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0
- d. Non-Resident Property Owner Transfer Station Sticker Application
 1. Larry Labrecque, 194 State St., he lives in Milton, NH. Paid \$15.00 - New
Motion to sign by: C. Wheelock, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Holiday Announcement – The Town Office is closed for Veterans Day – Monday 11/12/18; it will reopen on 11/13/18 for normal business hours
- b. Election Voting – Tuesday 11/6/18 - 8:00 am – 7:00 pm
- c. The Town office has the independent auditors report for AVRRD; the Town law firm is merging to become one team for municipalities.
- d. T. Charron asked if the Board checked into the cemetery funds as she had asked previously. J. Weagle said he has but hasn't received any answers. T. Charron said they tied it up because we had a trustee that didn't live here. He lived in MA and owned property here and somehow managed to keep getting re-elected. He was paying stuff out of the account that shouldn't have been. When this was found the account was locked. We've been working on this

approx. 11 years trying to get the funds released. It took over a year to get all the paperwork (with him not being a trustee). J. Weagle further discussed. The only reason we went to court was to get the funds released, so we could use the interest at our leisure was because we were told by the AG's office that was the only way to get them. N. Merrow suggested checking with Aubrey Blodgett.

- e. C. Wheelock said there is a delay on Brown Road with the Rotobec project – There was an issue with a check being issued out of Canada. They were being allowed to continue, but someone took some pictures and sent to DES. It will continue, but it's on hold for a week or so.

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

There wasn't any business for a Non-Public Session.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: C. Wheelock

2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 2-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm

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