

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
PUBLIC HEARING & BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Date: Monday, February 4th, 2019
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.**

Board of Selectmen scheduled business meeting will convene immediately following public hearing.

Board members present: Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Chris Wheelock
Others: Nancy Merrow, Al Rossetto, Jim Tierney, Glenn Cassady, Reggie Charron, Robin Irving, Larry Bennett, Rebecca St. Cyr - Recorder

1. PUBLIC HEARING - ANIMAL ORDINANCE

a. Chairman opens the public hearing:

J. Weagle opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm.

b. *Receive comments, questions on proposed Animal Ordinance pursuant to RSA 466:31 and 466:31-a*

J. Weagle read the proposed ordinance: we will adopt RSA 466:31 except for the penalties. Weagle read the proposed penalties.

Questions:

N. Merrow asked if the Board received an email from her? The ordinance group is considered a public group and have to follow public rules. She hasn't seen any minutes, or a posting of the minutes, who's taking the notes, who's leading the meetings or who's attending. If you want public input they need to follow the rules, there is an RSA for it. M. Phillips said the Ordinance Committee has been told they need to keep minutes. J. Weagle said he believes that Becky Craggy has the minutes. Merrow said the meetings need to be posted in 2 places per RSA.

J. Weagle closed the public hearing.

c. *Adoption of Ordinance –*

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

d. *Adjournment of public hearing:*

J. Weagle adjourned the public hearing at 6:04 pm.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

1. Chairman opens the regular business meeting:

J. Weagle opened the regular business meeting at 6:04 pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

Motion to approve the January 22, 2019 minutes by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer Depts.

G. Cassady - Highway

We have gone through approx. 120 ton of salt over the last month. The weather has been up and down with the cold and rain; February is starting out the same. Church St. is in bad shape, he has cold patch in storage and some in the shop thawing out.

Cassady said there has been a lot of overtime this month; this has been the biggest winter in a long time. The sand pile was getting down, there is money in the budget so he got some from Carroll Concrete, so we don't run out. We lose a large percentage when it's frozen. Cassady said A. Rossetto had a good idea regarding putting up a bigger sand/salt shed. Rossetto further discussed the benefit of putting up a larger shed. He feels we should look into it. Cassady said we looked into them a while ago when CRS came in, but didn't get down to the costs. We would need to figure of the volume / space for 800 yds of salt. Discussed what size building would be needed. Cassady can check with Shane Beattie on the foot print for the amount of storage we would need.

C. Wheelock asked if the State stores more than the Town; their building is approx. 60' x 100'. Cassady said we store more sand than salt, Wheelock thought we could be looking at a 72' x 100' building. A. Rossetto commented that not all would need to be under cover. When we have all this rain we lose volume and then it freezes. M. Phillips commented that we have \$25,000 in the budget, if Cassady can get the information together, we can then discuss further.

C. Wheelock said Paul Perras put together a potential flyer for the Transfer Station that could go out with the next water bills. It's not finalized, but it's about what we want to do and are doing; it includes a map of the Transfer Station and the flow. Staples can publish the flyers for approx. \$360.00 for 1,000 copies. Wheelock wanted the Board to review before the budget hearing next week.

A. Rossetto talked with Paul and Sharon about when something comes into the transfer station – who does it belong to? It's the Towns. Regarding tires, Sharon said when the Town brought tires to AVRRD they would list how many of each and that's what was billed. Rossetto asked if that's true? He wants to learn more about it from Paul.

R. Charron – Water/Sewer

We have been helping the Highway crew, Charron has had a tough time keeping up with his roads, there are quite a few. He has been pushing back the snow banks to keep them opened up.

The report is back from DES on the inspection. Everything was great.

Charron said he got the information for Rotobec. The hydrant flow test at Prima America was 1,260 gal / minute at 96 psi. Charron further discussed the testing. NSA – the company only wanted the tank – 1,000 gal/min at 68 psi. It was static pressure only. They want the elevations, which we don't have. We've never dealt with elevation. Discussion ensued regarding land elevations.

Charron said we had to pull the pump again in the Village, it had another mop head in it. We need to figure it out, it could be coming from one of the businesses and they don't realize it. Would like to get to the bottom of it by visiting the businesses.

There was a fire in the trailer park, Keith Knapp was on call that day. The Fire Department was happy with the water pressure.

Charron said we've been watching things with the Water system, he reviewed the savings from January 2018 – January 2019.

M. Phillips further discussed the salt shed. He suggested thinking about putting up 2 sheds instead of one, Cassidy will get the data together. M. Phillips commented with all the plowing, what is the amount to maintain a road? Do we know what it costs us to plow a road; the cost per mile. Cassidy said it's data that we could collect. The roads (even new pavement) are getting in bad shape with the weather.

- b. Discussion, vote to establish Water/Sewer CRF by Board as provided by RSA 35:7 and RSA 35:1 – J. Weagle read the proposed CRF.

M. Phillips asked what is a W/S rental? R. Charron said the language is confusing, The rentals are those that are paying for W/S – the users. The language is set up to cover the short term assets. Tabled until further clarified. The W/S CRF won't need to be on the warrant.

- c. Discussion/decision of financing for plow truck

We have 3 options:

1. \$175,516 – 3.970% interest 4 years; 1st payment - \$46,473.72
2. \$175,516 - 3.990% interest 5 years; 1st payment - \$37,902.28
3. \$175,516 - 4.050% interest 6 years; 1st payment - \$32,230.93

The Public Works Equipment Fund balance is approx. \$50,000.

Motion to go with the 5 year option by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0

- d. Appointment of commissioner and BOD for North Country Council (RLI) –
R. Irving asked the Board for permission to be appointed.
Motion to approve appointment of Robin Irving by: M. Phillips
2nd by: C. Wheelock, All in Favor 3-0
- e. Discussion of any Warrant Items – We added this for discussion (if necessary) before the budget hearing next week.

Article 26 & 27 are the same as 6 & 7; maybe they forgot to delete.

M. Phillips reviewed the 2018 budgeted vs the 2019 Requested.
Rec Dept - \$10,000 is more than last year; Charities are the same; CRF's - \$75,000
If we keep the CRF the same and with the \$10,000 increase for the Rec Dept. we are \$201,000 higher than 2018.

J. Tierney asked about the 2018 vs. 2019 - \$10,000 for the Rec Dept. it's in the 2018 numbers 100%; is it in the requested or is it added? M. Phillips said it's be added.

M. Phillips reviewed our evaluation, which went up by \$13,000,000, the tax rate, the grand list and increase in the budget. J. Tierney said the grand list is the same one that was used last year; he reviewed the #'s. The tax rate increase is approx. \$1.60, based on the proposed budget #'s. We are talking about a \$200,000 increase.

M. Phillips discussed what they would like to pay off. We can pay off the Ambulances with the CRF's – 2011 - \$68,000; 2013 - \$31,000. There is that much money in the CRF. The Public Works truck is \$37,000 more; there is a listing in Article 9 of the CRF's, which are our annual goals. We will consider taking off the following – public works truck, water system, water tank, not sure about the sludge removal. That leaves the Police Cruiser at \$10,000; Road maintenance – \$100,000; this is why the discussion tomorrow is so important; and municipal buildings - \$10,000.

There is a CRF for the Rec Dept, Wheelock explained they need to replace the pool covers. It's to start a CRF to cover anticipated expenses. The pump is old; the computer for chlorination and back washing doesn't work, they are doing it manually.

We are raising \$30,000 (not exact) for the Zoll. Phillips commented that we are looking at more than a \$2.00 tax impact. J. Weagle said one needs to be replaced this year and the other two next year. The manufacturer is not warranting the old ones any more, they are phasing them out. The Board discussed having 2 vs. 3 ambulances, manning, utilization, etc. Jim Gibson received a better price on the Zoll by negotiating with the company. C. Wheelock commented there should be documentation of how often all 3 ambulances are out at the same time. Lancaster has 5 ambulances, discussed mutual aid and what does that cost the Town? J. Weagle addressed.

Ambulance revenues, with the wage increases, the Zoll cost and the CRF for equipment it's approx. \$100,000. Discussion ensued regarding utilization, costs, and building a new EMS building. N. Merrow said in the past it paid for itself; when people realize they will pay through the taxes, it may create issues.

C. Wheelock will contact Jim Gibson for the cost for 2 ambulances instead of 3. R. Irving commented the USDA is back to work; she asked them about the equipment grant, so we may get that reimbursed. The Board will wait before establishing the ambulance CRF.

N. Merrow asked what if the numbers show that we can only cover 1 ambulance? J. Weagle addressed. Wheelock said the business plan needs to support 3 ambulances, the #'s need to be justified. It can be amended during Town Meeting if necessary.

J. Tierney asked if there is a spot for the proposed new ordinance – 5a. Weagle said it's in Article 32. Tierney said per RSA 31:102-a it can be approved by the governing body; it doesn't need to go to Town Meeting. J. Weagle said the lawyer or paralegal informed us that new ordinances need to go to Town Meeting. Tierney suggested contacting LGC.

C. Wheelock said this year the high school loop seems to be the worst for plowing and traffic, there appears to be more cars parking on the streets. Lisa Perras was contacted, seniors are allowed to park on the streets. Years ago it was brought up to make the street one way; is it time to revisit making it one-way again? J. Tierney said Town meeting voted to make the street one way, the Board at that time said no. There were complaints from people that live on the street. Lisa Perras is willing to bring it up at a staff meeting (for bus duty) to put another adult out on the Eames St. side; they would need to be certified if serving as a crossing guard. J. Tierney commented that it's up to the Board and not the Town.

It's a safety issue, especially during games, the fire trucks or ambulance would have a hard time getting through, delivery trucks have an issue as well. C. Wheelock recommended starting it over the summer months for people to get used to it before school starts in the fall. A public hearing should be held. J. Weagle thinks it was originally a petitioned warrant article.

4. Applications/Permits/Abatements and Warrants:

a. Building Permit Application

1. Steve Smith, Lost Nation Rd. – demolishing old camp structure. T. Bedell hasn't signed.

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

b. Current Use Application – Bernard G. Routhier Trust –

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

- c. Meeting Room Use Application – Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – 5:30 pm –7:30 pm - Coos County Directors.

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

5. Public Announcements/Matters to be Addressed by the Board:

- a. Proposed New Ordinance - Julie Boisselle – Hawkers, Peddlers, Paupers & Itinerant Vendors. J. Tierney read the proposed ordinance per RSA 320:1 and 321:1. A permit would be required; there are exceptions. The exemptions are from the fee and not the permit. Tierney reviewed those that would be exempt. We can't find where a State license is needed, Tierney suggested that LGC could be contacted about that. Becky Craggy would need to make up a new form. The permit is \$25.00, it can't be transferred to others. It does not need to be on the warrant. Julie Boisselle has the changes that were made. J. Tierney said this is the City of Berlins Hawkers and Pedals permit. It can be issued for up to one year. J. Weagle discussed why this came about and those that would be exempt.

N. Merrow asked about a vendor, the Northern Gourmet. If he is scheduled to stop at your home, he wouldn't need a permit. If they are knocking on doors, then a permit would be required.

The way it's written A. Rossetto feels it's restrictive. The intent is good however kids out shoveling sidewalks could be considered as breaking the law. J. Tierney said it's appropriate for the bigger cities, some of it comes down to using some good old fashion commonsense. Some of the tool companies might have a State permit. J. Weagle said this was brought up due to Eversource coming out requesting a copy of residents bills. It's a 1-2 week process to get the permit.

- b. Holiday Notice - 2/18/19 – The Town Office will be closed for Presidents Day.
- c. Planning Board Meeting Notice – 2/6/19 at 7:00 pm in the Town Meeting Room

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

The Board didn't go into Non-Public session.

7. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.