

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, October 19, 2020

Place: Town Meeting Room - 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting "social distancing" will be practiced and wearing of masks is strongly encouraged

Select Board Members Present: Michael Phillips, Jim Weagle, Bill Caron

Others Present: James Gibson, Sam Oakes, Mike Stanley (TransitX) David Brooks (TransitX), Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, Pete Marshall, Roach Kennett, Min Kennett, Sean Durkin, Peter Pelletier

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Michael opens the meeting with welcoming new Select Board member Bill Caron. Reminds everyone that there is a sign in sheet and to say your name when speaking.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Michael asks for a motion to approve the minutes from October 5th meeting. Jim makes motion, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

- a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

James Gibson for Ambulance: 469 calls to date, 47 ahead of last year of 422. One call today not added to the count.

Comstar report: Accrued to date \$180,782.09, payments of \$153,217.27.

Covid 19 update. No active cases in Northumberland area. One case in a contracted town, an outbreak in an outlying town that is close to us.

There will be a Thursday meeting with Tammy Letson on the budget, building, tracking.

There are new reporting requirements for Medicare/Medicaid. By jumping on that now we will get ahead. The new requirements are that we need to report all office time, run times, etc., have to report to Medicaid every year. More time consuming paperwork.

Michael: when you mention a breakout in a nearby town.....

James: yes, Berlin. Probably prison and guards.

Michael: anything else for James? If not, Peter is up.

Peter Pelletier – Police Dept.

Peter welcomes Bill to the Select Board. Since we last met we have had 265 call for service. Have had 69 vehicle stops, 17 new investigations, 18 arrests and 4 car crashes. Tonight we have a stolen car case with 3 in custody.

We have training starting with the grant approved by the Select Board. Beginning to implement parts of the program with training. Officer Mattson is in training to become a PL??? training officer. He will teach entry level police how to be police.

May have another full time candidate but will discuss at next Select Board meeting.

Michael: Any more questions for Peter?

Norm Cotter: is the old cruiser sold?

Peter: No, still out front.

b. Review/discussion of Recreation Commission resignation received

Michael mentions that Nicole McMann has given resignation to Rec Committee and a replacement is needed. If anyone is interested.

c. Discussion of inquiry from JLMC about Board's plans for roof over door/ramp at Town Office

Michael: we need to pay off the loan on the Town Offices. Any new construction is subject to USDA protocol and approval by NJ guy, not a good scene.

Jim: one thing I'd like to mention, maybe put snow shoveling into the budget and have it shoveled at least some of the year.

Michael: I'm open to that.

Norm Cotter asks what is JLMC?

Min Kennett tells Norm it is the name of the Safety meeting.

d. Opening/ review/discussion of any qualification submissions for Police/ Ambulance Building – no discussion

e. Review of DRA tax rate setting info and decision on overlay and fund balance:

Announces that the new DRA tax rate is up 42¢ if we allow an abatement overlay of at least \$20,000. The tax was estimated at 38¢ but came in at 42¢, the revenues were not as high as estimated. Because of Covid the rooms and meals taxes were not as high. We can lower the tax rate by adding money from the fund balance, which includes things like the \$100,000 for the salt shed, \$200,000 for the sidewalk project which has been delayed by the State, 25% of operating budget for October and November, some money is spoken for but \$75,000 overage for Brooklyn Street not used.

If the building loan is paid off, which is approximately \$120,000, we are relying on the fund balance to make that motion at Town Meeting. Would the Town approve us paying off this loan from fund balance. The more that is taken from the fund balance the less there is to pay off building loan. Tammy Letson proposed two scenarios: 1. Take \$85,261 from the fund balance and bring the tax rate from \$14.90 to \$14.70 (Town portion). This probably allows us to pay off building but not a fact. 2. Overall tax rate down to same level as last year by taking \$157,000 from fund balance. But I'm not a fan of that because it will impact us paying off the Town Building. County rate is up.

Jim asks what the overall fund balance amount is.

Michael: this number is totally confusing because it still includes 25% of our operating budget, so right now as of this date the amount is \$2,040,000. Sounds like a huge amount but there are other spoken for monies included in that amount.

Michael gives example of tax bill for a house valued at \$100,000 @ last year's \$14.94 municipal rate, the tax would have been \$3,355.

If we take nothing from fund balance this year's tax on that house would be \$3,476, if we take the \$85,000 from fund balance the tax bill would be \$3,410, and if we take the \$157,000 the tax bill would be \$3,355, the same as it was in 2019.

Personally favor the \$85,261 from fund balance and have to state we are providing for an overlay of \$20,000 in a motion.

Jim makes motion to go with \$85,261 and an overlay of \$20,000, Bill seconds, all in favor 3-0. Any questions?

Joseph Kennett: when you say this building, which do you mean?

Michael: meant to say the Town Office.

Min: Tammy recommended the \$157,000.

Michael: I did see that note.

Jim: but we are covering county tax increase as well.

Michael: this is also about paying off the loan so that we can do something about the ramp.

f. Review/date decision of proposed 2021 Budget work sessions schedule

Tuesday Nov 10 – Water, Sewer, Ambulance

Tuesday Nov 17 – Executive, Financial Administration, Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Welfare, Planning, Zoning, Culture, Recreation, Library, Conservation, General Government.

Tuesday Nov 24 – Police, Emergency, Highway, Solid Waste

Michael : can do all

Jim: can we change the 10th to the 11th? Michael and Bill good with the change, all other dates hold.

g. Discussion of home-based businesses (JW)

Jim brings up that he was talking to Chris Caron, hoped he would be here tonight, but Chris says there are home based businesses that have people that are not registered with the State, or come to their house....

Michael asks if this is a Zoning issue.

Jim: probably both Zoning and Planning. Will have to discuss at both meetings and see what they go with.

Michael wants Jim to introduce topic to Zoning Board.

h. Review/discuss/decide on letter received from Chairperson of Groveton United Methodist Church

Michael reads the letter from the Chairperson of Groveton United Methodist Church expressing their concern for all of the canned goods and other foods left behind because of the Senior meals slowdown. Concern for outdated and possibly freezing. There is an inventory list of items, would like to have suggestions as to what to do with the food.

Jim: Senior meals has their own board and need to decide what to do.

Min: We paid for that.

Jim: Yes and no, CIFCO pays for them to buy, we don't dictate where that money goes.

Min: maybe suggest giving to other food pantries.

Michael: recommend giving it to somebody.

Bill: spread the wealth, if another person can use it.

i. Transit X follow-up with Board after meeting with Planning Board

Mike Stanley, owner, founder of Transit X explains the way the pod system will work, areas of interest, lists steps they have gone thru so far. Coming to the Board tonight to ask if Transit X can move forward with looking for rights of way, easements, along Church St. There is confirmation that Bob Chapman's land will be used for a manufacturing facility, and for a test track. The pod system has the capability of replacing cars, trucks, trains, busses with high speed pods. Groveton to be the center of it all.

Michael: the Town would be used as a feasibility test for potential manufacturing?

Stanley: yes, and if we start here we can get the State's attention. Potential of Montreal to Boston route.

Michael: will have to present the use of Church Street at Town meeting.

Stanley: will run front page advertising to get the idea out, and to announce a public hearing. This could lead to manufacturing jobs for the town. Hope to have a mock up and ground breaking by the end of the year. The pods weigh 150 lbs., and seat 4 people.

Information on Transit X found on their website transitx.com

David Brooks, owner of Jericho Mountain, thanks the town for welcoming Transit X. This town will be the center of the world.

j. Cash summary – Michael Phillips

Started the month with \$717,000 in the checking, received \$104,000 in revenues, expenditures of \$537,000, including the \$200,000 school payment. \$500,000 was taken from the PDIP and put into General Funds. End balance is \$783,000 in the checking and 2nd issue tax bills are coming soon.

Michael: need to take a vote to accept \$5,000 in unanticipated funds from the grant for Tech and Civic Life to be used at election. Jim makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, 3-0.

Michael has a letter for acceptance of work done on Brown Road in order to bring up to par before the Town takes it over. Met with DOT, town employees, Philip Ballou, Robert Glover and James McMahan. Improved conditions were met and satisfied, if not exceeded conditions for which the Town will now take possession of a section of Brown Road.

Jim makes motion to have the Select Board sign the letter.

Oakes or Cotter?: is this the road section by my house? Route 3 to Craggy?

Michael: not going on Route 3.

Bill: no, my end still State, Craggy is Town.

????: it says US Route 3.

Michael: I understand. Do I have a motion.

Bill: Second the motion, all in favor, 3-0.

Finalized the amortization schedule for the final state aid grant on Brooklyn Street. For 25 years the State will pay principal in a range from \$3,331 to \$6,830, interest included, for an annual amount of \$6,969 which amounts to \$376,000 for Brooklyn Street pond.

4. Applications/ Permits and Warrants:

a. Supplemental Warrant - 3rd quarter town wide sewer drains

Done quarterly as a matter of town accounting procedure. Amount of \$17,500. Michael asks for motion, Jim makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

b. Building Permit (1)

Emily and Shawn Swallow for quanset hut on concrete slab. Salt in winter, equipment in summer. They have paid fee, AI needs to sign.

AI: Swallows have permit application before the Board and have asked for a zoning ordinance for accessory use. Will the Select Board add a condition to the building permit that the permit does not take effect and no construction is to be started until the lots are merged?

Michael: are merges complicated?

Jim: no, simple.

Bill to Al: what is the hang up? What is the cost associated with a merger.

Al and Jim come to an amount of approximately \$200.

Jim makes motion to approve with condition, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Veteran's Credit Application (1)

Brian Connors, service connected disability, all conditions met. Jim makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Sign permit: For Bear Storage out of Wolfesboro, formerly Perras Storage sheds. Nady Droon is a Groveton resident.

Jim asks where the sign will be placed.

Upon looking at a picture, sign will be to replace old sign, same spot.

Jim makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Abatement application

Denise and Alexander Johnston of Rich Street for \$775.39 for abnormally high water quarterly usage following a toilet repair. The Johnstons say that it is a missing washer that caused the excess, Winston confirms there was a missing washer at the meter but can't confirm that this is the reason for spike. Neither the Water Superintendent nor Technician support this abatement request.

Jim: motion to deny.

Michael: I agree and I will 2nd.

Bill: if there is a problem at the house it is not on us.

Motion to deny and second, all in favor, 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

a. Halloween 3 to 5pm. Trunk or treat at small ball field. Costume and judging will be canceled this year.

b. Election and Holiday closures

Office of Town Clerk/Tax Collector will be closed on Tuesday, November 3rd, election day, and Wednesday, November 4th for clean up and recording.

Northumberland Town offices closed Wednesday, November 11th, in observance of Veteran's Day.

Jim: we will have to go to the 12th for budget meeting, will that work for you (Bill)?

Michael? November 12th works for all.

Michael: anything else for Board? We need to go into Non-Public. Motion by Jim to go into Non-Pub at 6:56pm. Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

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

Personnel Matter – Motion to come out of Non-Public at 7:30pm by Jim, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:32pm by Jim, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, November 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X

Bill Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

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