

**TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND**  
**PLANNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**  
**Weds., June 2, 2021**  
**Groveton PD/Ambulance Bldg. - Meeting Room**  
**10 Station Square**  
**Groveton, NH**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**\* Social distancing shall be practiced during the meeting and the wearing of masks is strongly encouraged\***

**Board Members Present:** Al Rossetto, Chairman, Ryan Shannon, Ted Cauette, Nicole Canavan, Jim Weagle

**Others Present:** Elizabeth Ball (Clerk)

**Al Rossetto, Chairman, opens the meeting at 7pm.**

**1. MINUTES of May 5, 2021 Meeting** Al asks for a motion to accept the minutes of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Ryan makes a motion to accept, Jim seconds, all in favor, 5-0.

**2. Letter of Support from Robin to Senator Shaheen**



*Town of Northumberland*  
**Planning Board**  
**19 Main Street**  
**Groveton, NH 03582**  
**(603) 636-1450**

May 24, 2021

United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen  
2 Wall Street, Suite 220  
Manchester, New Hampshire 03101

Re: FY2022 THUD Congressionally Directed Spending Item Request

Dear Senator Shaheen:

The Northumberland Planning Board supports the Town of Northumberland's request for THUD Congressionally Directed Spending from Homeland Security for the construction of a Public Safety (Police & Ambulance) Complex. The current facilities for both departments are rented (the ambulance department rents office space and ambulance garage space!), significantly code-deficient having hazardous and unsafe conditions ranging from unsecured fire egress to leaking roofs onto internal electrical circuitry, and non compliance with ADA (with a metal roof that dumps its snow onto its ramp, bathrooms without handrails, doorways that are not wide enough for a wheelchair etc.). In addition to these issues, there are state and federal mandates that cannot be resolved without considerable investment into a building in which the Town has no equity, e.g. lack of separate gender holding cells (also a juvenile holding cell), lack of secure evidence room, lack of secure patient file room, lack of secure cyber-room. The plan proposes construction of an energy-efficient headquarters serving as the Town's Emergency Operations Center having ambulance bays designed to also be the Town Hall/Community Room. Another critical feature, the decontamination room, is included particularly in the wake of COVID19, but also because First Responders and other Town employees require this kind of facility when exposed to sewerage, chemicals, human fluids, and other unknown contaminants.

The Town's Warrant Article #6 for Town Meeting 2021 requested to raise and appropriate \$2,306,667 for the purpose of constructing the new Public Safety Building. The legislative body did not pass this warrant article—mostly because they had just passed a school budget that was going to result in a \$3.00 increase to the tax rate bringing the Northumberland to the fifth highest in the State. Already feeling over a barrel, the voters did not vote for this bond or any other project that would result in an increase. Further, the sentiment at Town Meeting was very clear—that the voters wanted to know EXACTLY what the grants were at the time of voting and the exact impact on their taxes BEFORE they were going to vote. Although this is typically the opposite way that funding agencies want to operate, it is the only way that Northumberland will operate. So, because the expansion will result in the retention of departmental positions and likely result in hiring of additional paramedics and another full-time police officer, install water/sewer/fireline/ and sidewalk infrastructure, and significantly strengthen the workforce by creating a training center that improves the region's EMS workforce, making the Town eligible for economic development funding, the Planning Board approves of the Town's objective to seek THUD funding to reduce the tax burden on local residents. The Planning Board understands that this project has been controversial, mostly because taxpayers are feeling the sting from loss of state aid to school. The fundamental way to cultivate local support is to create collaborations with funding agencies to reduce the Town's match appropriation and reduce the tax impact. Further, despite lack of local attendance at the public information meeting regarding the Public Safety Building Meeting, the meeting was recorded and information was uploaded onto social media sites. It was clear from review of these materials that this project has support from our District Representatives Troy Merner and Arnold Davis, Senator Erin Hennessey, Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney, and Commissioner of Department of Safety Robert Quinn. The majority of the Selectboard, the Northumberland Planning Board, and Groveton Regional Economic Action Team (GREAT) are also supporting this project. We and the other supporters appreciate the committee's consideration of the Town's request for THUD funding for vital EMS construction.

Respectfully,

Alan Rossetto, Chairman  
Northumberland Planning Board

### 3. Any Other Business To Come Before the Board

- Ed Mellet looking to do a minor subdivision on his parcel-making it two lots. He is cutting wood now and has been sent the application, should be sent back and received in about a month.
- Groveton High School gyrating sign (Jim)  
Jim explains that the sign for the High School was approved. There was a public hearing and the Selectmen voted to approve. Should be an August installation. Discussion on ordinances, update of Master Plan and sign permits.
- FYI- Survey from Mark Vander-Heyden for Call/Covell survey “plan of lands”  
Planning Board received survey of plan of lands according to RSA676:18,4

Al asks if there is anything to come before the Board. There is nothing.  
Jim makes motion to adjourn, Ryan seconds, all in favor 5-0.

Adjournment at 7:11pm.

Next meeting, July 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan  
Northumberland Planning Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Northumberland Planning Board Members on \_\_\_\_\_

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Al Rossetto  
Northumberland Planning Board Chairman

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Canavan  
Northumberland Planning Board Member

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ted Caouette  
Northumberland Planning Board Alternate

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Weagle  
Northumberland Planning Board Member

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Shannon  
Northumberland Planning Board Member