

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Draft Copy of Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, August 3, 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: Chris Wheelock, James Weagle, Michael Phillips

Others Present: Alan Rossetto, Nancy Mellow, Glenn Cassady, Reggie Charron, Sam Oakes, Tim Emperor

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Chris Wheelock, Chairman, opens meeting and asks for acceptance of July 20th minutes. One correction: Peter Pelletier did not say getting complaints from the wrong people. Correction is to say Peter Pelletier said he was getting complaints from the right people. This when Chris brings up that the Town has been getting positive feedback from having more Police coverage.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Jim makes motion to accept minutes of July 20th, 2020 with correction. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

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

Water/Sewer – Reggie reports that the #1 well blew up. Fitch engineering and he spent 6 to 8 hours troubleshooting everything. The crane service pulled off the cover and wires were found to have burned. Fitch megged other wires and they megged good. Must have been a lightning strike. "Ronnie" mentioned that if the casing had been bonded to the motor it would have survived a lightning strike, grounded.

Reggie: We made history on using the small #2 well running the Town. Barring any water draining emergencies we should be good until we get a new pump. Would like the Selectmen's approval to buy a new pump and install.

Discussion on finding another well source for backup, sooner than later.

Chris inquires about the cost of the project for replacement.

Reggie: About \$8 to \$9,000 for pump with motor, probably \$12,000 to \$14,000 for the job including the crane and labor.

Chris asks Michael if this would come out of the Capital Fund. Michael agrees that it would.

There is \$16,886 in the water system fund. More discussion on the pump and costs. Jim makes motion to order the pump and to take from the CRF fund if insurance does not cover. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Highway – Glenn reports the work that has been ongoing, replacing manholes, castings, curbs, trails, brush cutting. There are 4 streets torn up, Spring, Summer, Pleasant and Odell. Chris asks if Glenn is happy with the grinding system, Glenn is happy with the system.

Nancy Mellow: If water is needed, should a notice to the public be sent out?

Reggie: No notice needed. Can reduce the pressure to accommodate.

Jim asks if Guildhall is using extra water, Reggie replies no, it is running excellent.

Chris: any other questions?

- b. Tim Emperor – Groveton Trail Blazers – Discussion/decision of Eames St. extension agreement. Tim would like to build a dirt ramp by the lagoons to connect the main and south snowmobile corridors. Would only be used in winter.

Chris: we have already voted on this before, waiting for the State to approve and now that they have approved, I can sign.

Reggie brings up that there will be sewer cleaning next week and homeowners should take precautions.

- c. Opening/review/decision of Salt Shed Project bids

Chris opens the only bid received. Brassard Property Services and Construction bid of \$125,000 for 60x80 salt shed.

Discussion ensues on whether it will keep within the total budget of \$140,000.

Michael feels they are within budget.

Chris says he feels comfortable with Brassard. He is the only one out of 7 contractors that have bid. There is no problem with his start time.

Jim makes motion to accept the bid, Michael seconds.

Michael recalculates and reveals that this bid would put it over the budget with the concrete added in.

Discussion on where some money could be reallocated to cover. Chris adds that the bids will be higher because of sky rocketed building material prices.

However it works, the bottom line will have to remain the same.

Jim: should the motion be reworded to accept bid with contingencies?

Chris: there is no time, limited work time left and everyone is very busy.

All selectmen have discussion on how to work this situation. Michael suggests regrouping. No decision until August 17th.

Jim makes motion to rescind the award at this time to allow recalculation of spending.

- d. Authorization to utilize \$110,000 from Road Fund CRF

Chris asks Glenn if this is for paving. Glenn replies that it is. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0

- e. Water/Sewer Capital Reserve fund – vote on wording of establishment of CRF from February, 2020 meeting.

Chris reads the following

"To see if the Board of Selectmen will vote to establish a "water/sewer" capital reserve fund as provided in RSA 35:1 and RSA 35:7. Reserves for this fund shall only come from water and sewer user fees and no part thereof shall be made from appropriations through taxation. The Trustees of the Trust Fund shall have custody of this fund and the Board of Selectmen will be agents to expend from this fund."

Michaels asks if this concerns the short-term assets, Chris replies it does.

- f. Review/discussion/decision of Lufkin proposal – security equipment

Chris: this proposal is for relocating a camera to the back door to see better who is there. The amount for this would be \$124.46 and Becky feels it would qualify under the GOFFER reimbursement. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- g. Chris brings up that with school start up there is a lot going on. The school is asking if the Town would be willing to keep the pool open 1 more month for recess, as there are limited activities available.

Discussion on whether there is money to cover? Staffing is another issue as the lifeguards are students and will be going back to school.

Michael: Staffing will settle the issue.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Building Permit Applications

Go Solar – Richard and Pam Webster looking to add to an existing solar array and they have paid the fee and it has been signed by Al. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Joe Marino of Page Hill Road to build a 24 x 40 personal workshop. His setback is good and he has paid the fee. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- b. Sign Permit Application

Keith Bronson, Lost Nation Road, wants to put up a sign for home based business. Becky has given the specs – the sign will be 15 sq. ft., below the 16 sq. ft. limit and will be 23 feet from the center of the road. Jim brings up that the State should be checked with and makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Building Committee Meeting Notice – Monday, August 17th, 2020, 7:00 pm – 10 Station Square

- b. Chris has received an email on the alleged private meetings of Al and Gail Rossetto in the Library pertaining to nefarious purposes.

Chris has spoken to all parties involved. It seems that something was heard and not understood and then blown out of proportion.

NORTHUMBERLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
31 STATE STREET
GROVETON, NH 03582
603-636-2066

July 31, 2020

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
19 Main Street
Groveton NH 03582

Dear Sirs,

We are deeply concerned that individuals at the Town Hall are giving out erroneous information to the public stating that Alan and Gail Rossetto are holding secret meetings for nefarious purposes at the Library.

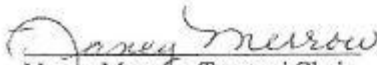
This is completely untrue. The Town Hall should have checked with the Library Director or a Library Trustee to verify the authenticity of the information before any such information is disseminated to the public.

We strongly urge the Board Of Selectmen to put an end to these incorrect statements by town officials because it impinges on the integrity of the library, its trustees, and its employees.

Thank you,



Gail Rossetto, Director



Nancy Merrow, Trustee/ Chair

Chris announces that he will be leaving the Select Board at the end of September. Hates to go but cannot pass on the opportunity for purchase of property. Michael and Jim will work with the procedure to replace me.

Michael brings up the Salt Shed construction and asks if bids should be put into the paper. Chris asks Glenn if the old Salt Shed is still there to use. Glenn says no it is not, it's gone.

Chris: well that changes my thought on that. Contractors are swamped, there is no time left.

Jim: we could rollover the funds

Chris: do not want to cut corners on the new Salt Shed.

Michael: we could put in the bid in the newspaper and see if anyone responds, if not, we can advertise again next year. We may get better bids or we could pave and put salt in and build shed next year.

Nancy: What happens to the funds already approved at the Town Meeting?

Jim: It goes back to the Town and then a request is made to re-appropriate the money for next year.

Michael: well at least we have a Plan B, so no ads, do what we can this year and build next year.

Anything else for the Board?

Jim makes motion to go into Non-Pub at 6:46pm, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

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

Motion to come out of Non-Pub at 6:58pm by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

Public Session: Jim makes motion to approve payment plan arrangement discussed with taxpayer. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Adjournment:

Jim makes motion to adjourn at 6:59 pm, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, August 17, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Chris Wheelock
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Member

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