

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Revised Draft Meeting Minutes
Date: Monday, June 15, 2020
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen present: Chris Wheelock, Chairman, Jim Weagle, Michael Phillips

Others present: Gregory Cloutier, Skip Sansoucy, James Gibson

(Ambulance), Peter Pelletier (Police), Min Kennett (Town Clerk/Tax Collector)

1. Chairman opens the meeting: Chris Wheelock, Chairman opens the meeting at 6pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion made by Jim to accept minutes from June 1st meeting, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

Jim – Reports 259 calls, ahead of last year’s 232. 25 requests for transfer, 9 accepted, 11 declined. Comstar to date \$106,645, paid \$70,067.23. No new cases of Covid 19 in this area. First responder pay for covering during Covid 19 will go into pay checks this week. Ambulances are up to par. Would like to start working on Public Safety Building planning, decontamination remains a concern without the proper facility.

Chris – originally scheduled mid February, can move forward now on Building Committee meetings.

Conversation among Chris and James on schedules and on getting the list from Becky to send out emails for meeting. Chris to contact Al on this as well.

Peter – Reports that 2 new investigations have been opened. There have been 4 arrests, 2 of them felony. One serious car crash under investigation. The Track situation seems to be under control and going well. Graduation went very well, school staff was excellent in planning and execution. This type of graduation ceremony should be considered in the future.

Jim states that this is the first outdoor graduation for Groveton.

Peter continues his report on the importance of starting up meetings with the Building Committee on the Public Safety Building. Also reporting that there had been a possible Covid exposure but turned out to be negative. Stresses that having 2 different dispatch teams causes a disconnect. There should be one dispatch center handling the same call.

b. Review/Discussion of PHS PILOT agreement renewal

PILOT agreement for next 5 years brought up, Selectmen have no problem with it. Skip Sansoucy wants to bring up some important items before the Selectmen sign the agreement. 1. The Selectmen do not have to sign the PILOT tonight, have all summer. 2. That a 5 year PILOT is not mandatory. 3. That the Selectmen should talk to Elaine, she has all the information.

Much information regarding net metering and how that eliminates tax payments for utilites. Towns lose money. The way to go would be for a fixed amount and

drift payment up \$1000 per year. The Town is assuming all the risk, the risk should be shared by having a fixed price. The Selectmen decide to table the PILOT renewal until they have become more educated.

Greg Cloutier responds to Skip's comments that there is risk on the utility side. Property values go up with potential of net metering. The consulting fees, the mechanical failures that can happen, relicensing costs, please consider these costs when looking at the PILOT renewal.

- c. Sansoucy – Discussion of HB 700 – Tax Stabilization Payments – How to value utilities, the distribution system. Wants Fair Market Value for all utilities. For example, with telephone, the poles and wires were exempted from taxation. There is legislation to make those taxable again, especially with 5G coming on board. With HB1237 many communities have no tax reporting from utilities, and this would make it mandatory reporting. Also, there is an equalization rate bill which Public Service is fighting. Town's are basing their tax rate using old valuations, want to get the DRA to set the rate before MS1 come out, not after.
- d. Opening/review/decision of 2020-21 fuel quotes received
3 bids – Al Beland, Irving and CN Brown – quotes for propane and fuel oil. Al did not quote propane.
Fuel – Irving \$1.56/gal. CN Brown \$1.59/gal. Al \$1.769/gal
Propane – Irving \$1.772/gal CN Brown \$1.199/gal.
Decision to stay with CN Brown. Jim makes motion to approve the #2 fuel and propane provider is CN Brown. Mike seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- e. Opening/review/decision of Salt Shed Quotes Received
3 quotes for concrete on new Salt Shed.
Blanchard - \$30,500 for 10", deduct \$1,620 if 8"
Swallow - \$30,400 for 8", \$36,400 for 10"
Gosselin - \$57,000 for 10"
Michael mentions that Blanchard's work at the Transfer Station was good and makes motion to accept Blanchard's quote for the Salt Shed. Jim seconds, all in favor 3-0. No date given for starting project.
Conversation on Contractor to use, Chris has 3 he can refer. Best to let contractor choose materials. Ownness to contractor, not town.
- f. Annual concurrence of Town Investment Policy
2022 Policy same as 2019, Jim makes motion to sign, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- g. Review/discussion/decision of filling Cemetery Trustee Vacancy
Chris mentions there was only person showing interest. Kevin Lakin, his letter stating that he would like to fill the remainder of the time for the position left.
Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- h. Request to use big ball field – Annual Griffin Donald Kenison softball tournament
Organizers are trying to plan this tournament in case it is allowed. Jim makes motion to allow with proof of insurance, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permit Applications (6)

1.) Jon & Cathy Haas - 462 NH Rt 110 - Paving of Driveway - First time being paved- State driveway permit application is submitted-Central Paving, Contractor. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

2.) Sue Ferland - 87 Brooklyn St. - interior renovations, will be over \$5000 in new materials including kitchen cabinets, ceilings and floors - Lionel Cloutier Construction is the contractor. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3.) Danny Hand, Donald & Norma Hand - Complete demo of mobile home & 8 x 10 shed, demo company is North Country Recycling (Mike Pusateri) of Tamworth...they haul it all away down south, doing some in Page Hill Trailer Park in Lancaster at the same time. Brookview Trailer Park director signed as land owner giving permission as all rent is paid up. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

4.) Roger & Doris-Russ Strout - 174 State St.-replacing a quonset tent storage (not assessed) with a 10 X 16 "Old Hickory Buildings" prefab wooden shed with metal roof. Will be behind house, commercial zone only has a front minimum setback of 25 ft and this is over 300. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5.) Sharon Benoit - 58 Winter St. - tear down an existing garage, and replace on a different location on the parcel. It would be 28 X 28 on a cement slab, metal roof and metal siding, to be built by Ron Ash, excavation to remove fill and for slab by Larry Gray Excavation. It is zoned Residential High Density, and would meet the setbacks. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

6.) Ken & Rhonda Taylor - 789 Lancaster Rd. - Adding a 10 x 12 open wood deck w/steps and an 8 X 8 wood "pad" for hot tub at ground level, new outside steps on left side of house. Adding an 8 X 18 enclosed porch on rear of home (with one window) which would envelop the existing 5 X 6 deck (to be used as a mudroom)...would be doing this part next year. Paid fee. Jim motions to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

No Permit:

Alan & Nancy Merrow - 145 Lancaster Rd. - repaving existing paved driveway - got their DOT driveway permit in place.

Seaton Stone - 11 Fiske St. - replacing rotted existing porch roofed with fiberglass with same materials - same footprint/style.

b. Abatement – PSNH - \$4,648.50 Lost Nation. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application – Clark – New application, paid fee, Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor 3-0.

d. Petty – Renewal, paid fee, Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Animal/trash issues on the hill – Amanda Anderson – resolved.

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

- a. Resident Matters (MK) Michael makes motion to go into Non-Pub at 7pm. Jim seconds, all in favor 3-0.
- b. Motion to go back into Public Session by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor 3-0.

7. Public Session Resumed:

Jim makes motion to accept payment plan of \$1000 at least proposed by Min, Michael seconds, all in favor 3-0.

Jim makes motion that the Town Offices will tentatively open July 1st or sooner, with signage and items. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 7:12pm by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor 3-0.

Next meeting, July 6, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on_____

X

Chris Wheelock
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Member

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