

**Town of
Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
April 5, 2021
Place: Town Meeting Room - 10 Station
SquareTime: 6:00 P.M.**

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

Select Board Members Present: James Weagle, Chairman, Keith Bronson, William Caron via phone
Others present: Norman R. Cotter, Pete Marshall, Dawn Houghton, John Normand, Al Rossetto, Sam Oakes, Bruce Oakes, Glenn Cassady, Melinda Kennett, Debi Weeks, Lee Rice Jr. Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Robin Irving

1. Chairman opens the meeting: James opens the meeting and asks for an acceptance of the minutes.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Motion by Keith to accept minutes, seconded by William, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

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

Glenn Cassady for Highway reports first.

Reed and Hayden have started and are doing well. The weather has not been the kindest but work on sweeping streets has begun. Dirt roads are being graded and raked. Randy is putting away the winter equipment. Spring cleanup has begun and sidewalks will be brought up later. Sidewalk assessments have been made. Reed worked with Keith on some water/sewer things, working to diversify Reed and Hayden.

When asked how the new employees were working out by Bill, Glenn replied that he will have to make a better list to keep them busy, they are very enthusiastic.

Norm Cotter asks who was hired.

Glenn: Reed Stiles and Hayden Gonyer.

No more for Highway.

Glenn reports for Water/Sewer.

Glenn brings forth that the ladder rack on the 2018 Ford 350 has not performed as expected. Would like to ask the Selectmen if it could be sold for \$800, very little loss of original cost. A headache rack will be ordered to put onto the Ford for the lights and better performance of attachment.

Keith just mentions to Reggie to get a bill or sale receipt to turn in.

Reggie working with Granite State to start hill project, got a lot of information that needs to be discussed at a later date. Also working on the pump stations, in poor shape. Not a responsibility of the town and trying to get the pump stations cared for properly.

The lagoons have been locked down, there will be an inspection by DES. The fencing needs to be cleaned up.

The new guys are doing very well and that is good.

Keith and Winston have finished the meters, system will be more efficient.

Keith asks if leaf burning could be done to clear the fence.

Reggie explains that it is more than just burning, trees have grown into the fence. Should be taken down, cleaned and redone.

b. John Normand - Municipal parking and sidewalks

John tells the Select Board that there has been a blue car in the municipal parking lot all winter.

Keith ask where the Municipal parking lot is, and is told it is by the old Village Store.

Jim to get Peter on this.

John goes on to telling the Select Board that the condition of the sidewalks is terrible.

Discussion of the money in the amount of \$800,000 was available, but the DOT funding was delayed, Robin to send bids out to engineers within the next couple of weeks. Construction was to begin in 2022.

John asks where the \$800,000 went.

Robin mentioned that it was a grant.

Jim brings up that \$200,000 was appropriated and is in an interest bearing account.

Glenn brings up that the sidewalks are terrible and that a band-aid fix can be done.

Further discussion on the cost and when will fixing begin. Comment made that the sidewalks should just be pulled up and just marked with a white line.

c. Authorization of account transfer for Town Loan payoff

To pay off loan need motion to move \$98,105.46 from the interest bearing account to the general fund. Keith makes motion to move funds from the interest bearing account to the general fund to pay off loan, Bill seconds, all in favor 3-0.

d. Discussion/Decision Meeting House Attendant for summer season

Discussion on renewing Rob Roby as the attendant for the meeting house located by the Cemetery. His job entails opening up the building and answering questions to the public regarding history. Has been doing for at least 3 years. Does his research and is very knowledgeable. Keith makes motion to rehire Rob Roby, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Review/decision for quotes on PC & webcam purchase

This would be to update the computer and webcam for her assessing job. The computer would cost \$1,321.96 and the webcam would cost \$124.48. Bill makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

f. Residential to Commercial Demand Fee Complainants (Amanda Anderson attending in person to speak to this)

About 70 letters sent out, about 16 responses. Robin says she would file 3 abatements. Much discussion on what would qualify for abatement. There were several complaints, but only 1 made this come to a head.

Deb Weeks explains that she is not commercial, is letting her daughter live there to save up money for her own home, and that there was not enough notice about this.

Jim suggests this should be brought up on a case by case basis for abatement and asks Keith if he is good with this, Keith says yes he is good. Robin says that showing a vested interest in the property would be proof, as is paying bills related to the property.

Motion by Keith to consider case by case, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Electricity contract for Town

Bill asks if this is renegotiated every year.

Jim says yes, Robin does that.

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

Bill asks if this is a decrease or an increase.

Robin adds that the change is miniscule and this is for a 3 year contract.

h. RFI for broadband providers for Coos Broadband Committee

Robin is on the Broadband Committee to find service providers and asks the Select Board for permission to send a letter of release of information for providers and have the Chairman sign.

Pete Marshall asks what is the broadband tower located in Town.

May be TCC?

Robin looking to get provider service areas and dead areas to be covered.

Keith makes motion to approve and have Chair sign.

Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

i. Follow up discussion on fuel tank mitigation

Tank from Munce's. Currently sitting on Barry Normandeau's property. Tried to sell no takers, looking for what to do with it now. Keith investigating funds for cleanup. It has Diesel fuel and no ID# can be found. Selling the tank would create a liability for the town, the life span is over. Would be better to drain and cut up for scrap.

j. Follow up discussion on 51 Cumberland St.

Jim: Al has taken pictures of the property. It can't be rebuilt. There is no sign of anyone living there. Garage is locked and could not look inside, no visible hazardous buckets. Recommendation of demo permit only.

Jim suggests sending a letter to the owner to demo. Keith wants to add a time frame in which to get it done. Bill asks what the condemnation rules are. Jim replies that they try to stay away from that because of so much involved.

Bill comments on how bad the building is, but maybe the foundation is ok.

Al says the foundation is showing signs of wear.

Keith would make a motion to give them 6 months to clean it up and to demo the building. Bill seconds, all in favor 3-0.

Further comment from Robin on nature of permit renewal. Discussion of whether taxes are being paid, they are. What ordinance permits this. Discussion that this has gone on for too long, needs to be cleaned up.

Pete Marshall brings up Northumberland Village person who has many vehicles, but registers them. They are not inspected.

K. Review/reading of letter received from advisory Building Committee
Northumberland Building Committee Groveton, NH 03582

March 25, 2021

Town of
Northumberland
Select Board
19 Main Street
Groveton,

NH 03582

Dear Sirs;

On March 18, 2021, the Northumberland Building Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Northumberland Select Board move forward and proceed with the plan for the Public Safety building as designed by Allan Clark of REI and to have Robin Irving continue her efforts to secure funding.

Sincerely,



Alan Rossetto, Chairman
Northumberland Building
Committee

This is a proposal to get funding and move ahead on the EMS building.

Bill makes motion to move ahead, Jim seconds, Keith declines. Vote is 2-1.

L. Review/discussion/decision/signing of transmittal letter for roof truss order Salt Shed

Motion to have Jim sign by Keith, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 3-0.

M. Summer Season Sidewalk Dining Request - Moody Mug Café

Keith makes motion to approve if access is wider, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0

N. Appointments for Planning and Zoning Boards (3)

Ted Couette for Planning Board alternate.

Mario Audit for Planning Board member.

Michael Phillips for Zoning Board member.

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

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Applications

John Pearson – Post Office

Wesley Wicks – RI

John McMann – North Conway

James Petty – NJ

Richard Dupuis – Guildhall (new applicaton)

Marcy Venetraskia – CT

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

b. Building Permit Applications (2)

Daigen and Marlene Stiles

John and Pam Jurowski

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

c. Supplemental Warrant - First Quarter Town-wide sewer drain

This is for \$8,750 for the town water drains. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

a. Recreation Commission Meeting Announcement - Tuesday 4/6/21 6 pm at Rec Building

Jim makes motion to go into Non-Public, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Bill makes motion to come out of Non-Public, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

In Non-Public a payment agreement was agreed to.

Other issues were covered with Robin.

6. Adjournment:

Keith makes motion to adjourn at 7:33pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0

Next meeting, April 19, 2021
Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member

