

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Amended Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, December 6th, 2021

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting wearing of masks is strongly encouraged for all individuals

Select Board Members Present: James Weagle, Chairman, William Caron, Keith Bronson

Others Present: Al Rossetto, Sean Durkin, Ma?? Durkin, Glenn Cassady, Dave Caron, Theresa Caron, Theresa Cormier, Ryan Shannon, Richard Brooks, Michael Cormier, Courtney McLain, Chad Gay, Reggie and Terri Charron, Norman R. Cotter

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Jim opens the meeting and asks for motion to approve minutes.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Bill makes motion to approve minutes as read, Keith seconds, all in favor 3-0.
- 3. Selectmen Business:**

- a. Dept. Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer (Discussion of w/s rates, septage rates) (Discussion of email received from TNC)

Glenn Cassady reports for Highway Dept. Mostly winter maintenance, an issue to discuss, cutting roadside brush, working on leach field, just little items to finish, helping Reggie with shoulders and manholes.

Keith mentions that he received a complaint of speed by town equipment operator, almost an accident. Please mention to the guys, Glenn says he will mention.

Discussion on a driveway permit for Hillside. There was some asphalt damage. Not much can be done at this point, a concern on equipment falling over the bank. Glenn will follow up. The drive is only to back equipment into.

Someone brings up the issue of ice buildup at the bottom of a private road, would like town to sand. Town cannot maintain if private road but there is a sand/salt mix which the public can use.

Reggie for Water/Sewer. Wants to know if the water rates increase and demand fee are on the agenda for tonight. Discussion and decision possible tonight. Sewer side is level but the water side is lacking. Previously there was no charge for septic receipt but have to charge now. All costs in septic are going up, PFA and PFOA testing is getting more expensive. The budget will be going up, plan on adding \$10,000 extra per year and going up from there. Discussion of impact fees for new businesses and residential properties needed. No amount has been agreed upon yet, possibly a 5 year step increase.

Ryan and Keith discuss the school budget being an issue. More residents need to go. Any amount gets approved now without resident participation. Other people present discuss the need to make the meeting more advertised to people.

Reggie brings up that there may be Federal money coming to help but may have so many requirements that it will not be possible to get, but the Town cannot take any more bonds to cover. At least the major projects are done, headway made there. Regained a large percentage of well use, the Hill project needs to be completed, some residents cannot use the water.

Unfortunately the SCADA is still not finished because of Covid outbreaks,

hopefully finished in the Spring. When asked what the SCADA does Reggie explains that the SCADA allows for remote access and observation. The lagoons are down to 35,000 to 40,000 gallon per day down from the 500,000 gallons per day. Following up on loose ends with freezing and thawing.

There is still an issue with wipes on Brooklyn Street.

Water use reduced after the Mill went out and tightening up the system, but there is no income, must sell more water. Comment made on lowering taxes to attract people and businesses. The Water Department has not made budget for years. Water/Sewer should be self-sufficient but have not been. New regulations coming from the State all the time.

Norm Cotter comments that he is hearing about all of the water the Town has saved but not how much the Town has saved by doing all of the improvements. If so much money is saved by not having to purify it should not go up that much.

Reggie tells Norm the information is in the Town Budget Report

So instead of getting the septic cleaned every few years will wait until it is full.

Reggie agrees, and explains that the Town has not made budget in years.

Bill said that both water and sewer should be self-sustaining.

Keith mentions that there used to be a fund to subsidize water/sewer but it has run out.

Norm asks if there is any idea on how to charge individual landowners to pump their septic tanks.

Reggie says \$125 or 12 cents per gallon septic addition. This extra goes to the Town to help pay for cleaning.

Norm asks if this will be \$125 each time?

Reggie replies "yes".

Norm: this is an awful jump in taxes, sewer bill for individuals retired on fixed incomes.

Reggie: need to prepare for what's coming down the pike for the lagoons and improving Cumberland Street. No one likes this.

Norm: Lot of people are on a fixed income.

Bill: That is because there is no industry.

Reggie: and we have the room. Lagoons won't handle any out of town septic to be trucked in. It will be a flat rate of \$125 per 1,000 gallons.

Norm: there are a lot of people with 275 gallon tanks, will they be charged the same?

Bill: there has been no hauling fee in Groveton, free for residents.

Reggie: 12 cents per gallon, new.

Al: paying by the gallon instead of per 1000 is only fair.

Reggie: rate to be 12 cents per gallon.

Al: it will cost me more money but charging per gallon is more fair.

Norm asks if this is \$12 per gallon?

Keith says no.

Back to water discussion, septic dumpage rates need to be set tonight. Discussion of fees, charge per gallon. 12 cents per gallon recommended.

Keith makes motion to set 12 cents per gallon as the septic receiving fee to residents only as of January 1, 2022. Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Reggie lets people know he will be on vacation Dec 10 thru 21st.

- b. Resolution/vote authorizing the issuance of refunding bond. (Public Hearing was 11/15/21) Need another vote to authorize the issuance of the refunding bond. Saves \$96,810 over the life of the loan with out of pocket payment of \$4,700 cost.

TOWN OF NORTHUMBERLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds
Dated as of November 15, 2021

WHEREAS, the Town of Northumberland, New Hampshire (the "Town") has issued certain \$1,569,000 General Obligation Bonds through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development ("USDA RD") dated as of November 13, 2017, which mature on November 13, 2044 in the aggregate outstanding principal amount of \$1,402,888 which are eligible to be refunded at par at any time without penalty (the "Refunded Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, although the Refunded Bonds are not subject to redemption prior to their maturity date, USDA RD has consented to the redemption of the Refunding Bonds prior to such maturity date; and

WHEREAS, it appears likely that bonds issued today would have a net interest cost less than the net interest cost on the Refunded Bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Town may be able to realize debt service savings by issuing certain refunding bonds (the "Refunding Bonds"), the proceeds of which would be utilized to current refund or advance refund the Refunded Bonds and to pay certain other costs relating thereto, including any necessary redemption premium and the costs of issuing the Refunding Bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen (the "Governing Board"), hereby authorizes the issuance of Refunding Bonds pursuant to the provisions of RSA 33:3-d, the proceeds of which shall be utilized to current refund or advance refund the Refunded Bonds, to pay the redemption premium, if any, applicable thereto, any principal and interest coming due on the Refunded Bonds prior to any redemption date and to pay the costs of issuance of the Refunding Bonds, including costs of any credit enhancement; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town is hereby authorized to finally approve the aforesaid refunding by entering into a Loan Agreement or Bond Purchase Agreement (the "Agreement") with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank or such other underwriter(s) or bond purchaser(s) as the Governing Board may deem appropriate in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds to evidence the Town's approval of the terms and conditions of the Refunding Bonds; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Agreement and such other documents, if any, as shall be required in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Issuer by its Chairman of the Governing Board or its Vice-Chairman of the Governing Board, each acting singly, and/or such other individuals as may be required by state law or as may be specified by bond counsel; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that an Escrow Contract and such other documents as shall be required in connection with the issuance of the Refunding Bonds shall be signed on behalf of the Town by the aforementioned individuals, and/or such other individuals as may be required by state law or as may be specified by bond counsel; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town is authorized to enter into such other documents, to engage such other professionals (including a Financial Advisor, Escrow Agent, Verification Agent and Paying Agent), and to do such other things as are necessary

to consummate the aforesaid refunding; and

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all actions heretofore taken by the Town consistent with the foregoing are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

Bill makes motion to authorize resolution to refinance, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Discussion/clarification of camper – Stratford Rd. – R Brooks

Several camper issues are discussed. First being Ray Road, off Lost Nation, 2 campers, occasional visit. Discrepancy with deeds, people party for a week and then dump on the ground. The owner will not meet to discuss. They are not legally hooked up, a certified letter sent to the owner needs to be sent. The owner is also not paying dues and has a hard to deal with personality.

Trailer on Wheelock Drive off of York near Ocean State Job Lot. They owe back taxes, the occupant was taken to the hospital by brother, almost froze to death. An official complaint on the the trailer has to be made before anything can be done.

D&S Auto, Dave and Theresa Caron, camper on property. Discussion of how the terminology is written. Six months of residence in one calendar year. Discussion of time frames of residence. Carons request removal of fines. Bill makes motion to removed fines and the Carons have until June 30, 2022 to move or vacate, Jim seconds, Keith opposed, passes 2-1.

d. Discussion of lighting at covered bridge – C McLain – new people, someone needs to help with sockets and where to plug in. Glenn will help with locating.

e. Discussion/decision of dates for 2022 final budget work session and final public hearing on 2022 budget/warrant. Jan 11, 2022 at 11am will be a budget work session during regular work hours. Final warrant readout on February 7 at regular Select Board Meeting. Possibly there may need to be another work session.

f. Follow up discussion of flag status responsibilities at monuments. Bill lowered flag for Bob Dole. The Legion and VFW are not on board to handling the flag at the monuments. The Legion and VFW handle their own. The Legion and VFW are only involved with the purchasing of a flag every 3 years on rotation. Bill feels that only a Vet or someone that has served should be handling the flag lowering at the Monuments. Perhaps the Police Dept would be able to help with the Town Garage as the backup. Bill will do until settled. Chief Pelletier brought into meeting, discussion, response is that Police Depart., would be honored to do.

g. Discussion/review/decision of letter of interest received for zoning board vacancy. Michael Phillips tendered letter of resignation, Mario Audit expresses interest in filling, he is also on the Planning Board. Al Rossetto recommends Mario. Bill makes motion to accept Michael Phillips resignation and appoint Mario Audit, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

h. Review/discussion/vote to sign RFP for Eversource for LED lighting around high school. This would replace old lamps around the school with more efficient, safe lighting. Getting pricing to replace, this covers Rt. 3, Eames and Pleasant St. Ryan asks how much money would be saved. A matter of safety and cost effectiveness. Keith makes motion to sign the request for LED pricing, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Abatement Applications to Municipality (4)

1. Shawn and Murray Durkin – need to send to assessors. Motion to send to assessor to Keith, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 3-0.

2. Michael and Theresa Cormier, Long View Drive. Second tax bill has been

corrected, looking for abatement on first tax bill. Min to do, not the assessor. Jim to take care of tomorrow.

3. Nicholas Rosa, Roy Road, all info submitted, send to assessor. Keith makes motion to send to assessor, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
4. Groveton Methodist Church, water. Another letter received from Church, voted down last time. More information was presented, no one living there at the time but toilet running continuously. This has been brought to their attention before. Keith makes motion to deny, Jim seconds, Bill opposed. Passes 2-1.

b. Housekeeping Abatement (2)

Moms 3rd year of 50% off of taxes for new business construction. Keith makes motion to accept abatement of \$1,684.05 for last year, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Rotobec 2nd year of 50% off of taxes for new business construction. Keith makes motion to accept abatement of \$7,333.45, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- c. Intent to Cut (1) – Map 214 – Lot 34, 106acre parcel = Motion to approve by Bill, second by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Solar Exemption Application (2)

Kennison transferring solar credit to his new ownership - \$10,000 credit. Bill makes motion to accept, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Brand transferring solar credit to their new ownership - \$10,000 credit. Bill makes motion, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- e. Veterans Credit Application (1) – 201 Stratford Rd – Bill makes motion to approve Veteran’s credit, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- f. Commercial/Industrial Exemption Application (1) – 14 State St – Ryan Shannon 1st year tax credit for new business construction. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- g. Building Permit Application (1) – 10 Summer St – Tate and Fernando, paid \$250, AI to sign. Water/Sewer discussion. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- h. Vasco Electric. LED fixtures replaced at grocery store, check in mail. Conditional approval with receipt of check. Keith makes motion to approve, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board: Building permit turned into cease and desist. Footprint error. AI suggests it is corrected. Bill makes motion that Building Inspector modifies building permit, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0. If any question of over \$5,000 spent or to spend then suggested to get permit for \$100 that would cover two years.

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

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

- a. Personnel Matter
- b. Resident Matter

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

Bill makes motion to pay Armstrong-Charron Funeral Home. Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Adjournment: Keith makes motion to adjourn at 8:30pm, Bill seconds, all in favor,

3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Northumberland Select Board Minute Taker

Next meeting December 20, 2021.

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on _____

X

James Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member