

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes (Draft) Date:

Monday, January 4th, 2021

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: Michael Phillips, Chairman, Jim Weagle, William Caron.

Others Present: Glenn Cassady, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Keith Bronson, Bruce Pelletier, Robin Irving, Reginald Charron

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Michael opens the meeting and asks for a motion to accept minutes from last meeting with a correction: James Gibson is in charge of Ambulance, not Glenn Cassady.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Jim makes motion to accept minutes with correction of James Gibson in charge of Ambulance, not Glenn Cassady. William seconds the motion, all in favor, 3-0.
- 3. Selectmen Business:**

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

Glenn Cassady of Highway Department gives report: So far it has been a mild winter, minimal work so far. Purchased another load of salt, have two on hand again. On good days cutting brush and other outside jobs. Had a water break but it went well.

Michael: lets Glenn know that everything is in place for the Salt Shed and that there will be a warrant for \$10,000 for overages.

Reginald Charron of Water/Sewer gives report: Water break in the 6" AC pipe so there is a proposal to fix with Robin explaining some options. If there is not a warrant approval of \$48,000 the Guildhall changeover will not happen.

Michael asks Reggie what the length of the pipe is.

Jim mentions that they went under the old line with the new.

Reggie explains that it is 7 or 8 houses on an old line. Need replacement of obsolete connections and caps. This is a major job, need an excavator that costs \$2,000 to \$3,000 each time used.

Michael: Since we don't raise taxes for water and sewer budget, concerned about how far we can go before having to use other money to cover.

Reggie: Try to keep the budget in line, pretty lean, within \$10,000 under budget.

Robin: this is the first time that water has been in the black, but sewer is still in the red.

Reggie: A savings of 21 million gallons over last year. The system is tight, we catch leaks quickly. The AC line is just a matter of time before a nightmare happens. We plan on cleaning wells this year among other projects, a busy season. The biggest expense will be to bore for 3 properties at \$5,000 per connection per home. The proper way to finish off the AC line would be to cut

and cap off at the High School, about \$7,500.

Michael asks if this is out to bid.

Robin explains she is working with the USDA for the 3 connections, the water and sewer upgrade on the hill and the \$78,000 backflow and meter upgrade to Guildhall. Looking into loans and grants to cover the other items except Guildhall and suggest Guildhall puts that on their warrant article for town meeting. The more we become efficient the less money we are eligible for. Looking for a bond to get rid of the remaining AC pipe, it is dangerous. For us, Guildhall could cause a backflow contamination of our whole system, and the dead ends on the hill cause stagnant water and want to make it a continuous flow system.

Reggie: and the undersized pipe.

Robin: suggest putting money into a water CRF, as when we are done with these projects we will be too efficient and not eligible for any other money.

Reggie: well gentlemen, it's up to you if you want to add \$48,000 to a warrant. If it doesn't get in the Guildhall project is off for 2 years.

Michael wants to pursue with Tammy before okaying.

William mentions that it seems cheaper to fix now than to wait until it pops.

Jim agrees that this could be a time bomb for Route 3.

Conversation ensues on the need to do this. Robin is still working on numbers for rates for the 1st quarter water and sewer bills.

Michael likes the idea of Guildhall having a warrant for \$78,000.

Reggie: should be done, for safety and prevent water shut off and back flow production.

Robin offers to get on schedule for Select Board meeting and to write grants for Guildhall.

Discussion between the Select Board on the backflow problem from Guildhall, the hill project, 15% from Guildhall for the hill project which is in a written agreement. The budget will be looked over again and proposals made.

Keith should be back by end of month, first of next month.

- b. Vote to accept CARES-Election and Tech and Civic Life Grants as unanticipated funds

Robin mentions there is a resolution on record and that she needs the Selectmen to make a motion to file an application and to vote to accept the funds.

Jim makes motion to file an application for CARES Election funds, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Robin announces there is \$1,740.31 available and the Board should vote to accept this money as unanticipated funds.

Jim makes motion to accept money as unanticipated funds, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Robin says the Select Board should vote to submit an application for a Tech grant. Jim makes motion to submit an application for a Tech grant, William seconds, all in favor 3-0.

Robin announces there is \$5,000 awarded and that the Board should vote to accept those funds as unanticipated funds. Jim makes motion to accept those funds as unanticipated funds, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Michael brings up that Min regarding water shutting off for unpaid bills was discussed. They will not be shutting off anyone's water because of the pandemic, that there are grants and funds that will help pay the bills.

d.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Assessment Data Certification

Equalization municipal assessment certificate needed to sign. Jim makes motion to sign, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

b. Housekeeping, sewer drains. \$17,500 per quarter. Cut by half. Money needs to be moved via supplemental abatement. Needs to be done to match the budget. Jim makes motion to abate, William seconds, all in favor 3-0.

c. Surviving Spouse Veteran's Credit

Dolores Platt, all requirements have been met. Jim makes motion to issue credit, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

a. Holiday Notice

Monday January 18th, offices will be closed for Martin Luther King Jr., Civil Rights Day.

Building Committee will meet Jan 5th and Jan 19 at 6pm at 10 Station Square.

Robin regarding building committee and public hearing. Feb 4 or Feb 8.

Discussion and Feb 4 is chosen.

Robin: AG releasing rules on public meetings at end of this week.

Speak to School Board regarding using the school for meetings.

Jim: meeting next Tuesday, ok to use, but will check.

Not sure????: Do I need a permit for a 10x12 on blocks? Discussion by Board and Robin on whether a permit is needed. Depends on cost of building, whether on blocks, permanent.

Motion to go into Non-Public at 6:32pm by Jim, second by William, all in favor 3-0.

6. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:34pm by Jim, second by William, all in favor, 3-0.