

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Tuesday, January 19th, 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

Selectmen Present: Michael Phillips, Chairman, James Weagle, William Caron

Others Present: Al Rossetto, James Gibson, Norman R. Cotter, Ruth E. Bronson, Robin Irving, Peter J. Pelletier, Michelle Randall

1. Chairman opens the meeting: Michael opens meeting at 6pm and asks for motion to accept minutes.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Jim makes motion to accept minutes from January 4th, 2021. Jim makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

James Gibson reports for Ambulance. Not much going on, as of year end 2020 there were 261 calls, 10 more than last year.

James gives a 10 year report to the Selectmen to look over and discuss.

Discussion on 2020 and 2021 Comstar billing. 2020 numbers not in yet and billing for 2021 is being held off because of deductibles, so bill will start in Feb/March.

Covid numbers in Northumberland 12+, other areas reducing cases.

Michael asks James to explain why there were more transfers, there were 4 paramedics on board so transfers were plentiful

Robin asks James if 2020 numbers are not in yet because the Town year end is not reconciled. James replies yes for Town, but Comstar takes awhile to get numbers from, probably February.

No more questions for James.

Peter Pelletier reports for Police Dept. In 2020 there were 1960 calls for service, 130 investigations were opened, 84 arrests and 26 crash investigations. Since the last meeting, 8 new investigations were opened, 2 arrests were made, 1 call for service and 146 calls for service.

Other than that, finishing training and able to catch up on admin work because of more staff.

b. Vote on corrected amount for transfer from short term asset fund

The corrected amount to transfer for the Scada project is \$59,143.56. Jim makes motion to amend amount to transfer from short term assets. Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Cash Summary – December

Michael reports on the Cash Summary for December, but not reconciled.

Started the month with \$1,341,053.33 Received tax receipts of \$1,237,984.37 Expenses \$953,987.87 where \$620,699.00 was the County tax payment. There is \$66,518.56 in Capital Reserves. Month ends with \$1,690,598.39 with \$265,000 in Municipal investments. Looking good for the first of the year. No TAN note taken since 2017.

Hearing that increases may include \$5 per \$1,000 for the School and the County tax is going up.

d. Annual Concurrence of Investment Policy

Motion to approve by Jim, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Michael reads letter from the Library regarding outside maintenance. They ask if Town employees will be clearing snow from the front and back walkways at the Library.

Discussion ensues among the Selectmen, Robin and Al regarding insurance liability when shoveling, who should shovel, contractor or other. Possibly the Library could open after the shoveling was done. To be continued.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Current Use Application

Marino Family Trust – Arthur and Susan of 76 Page Hill Road. Two parcels to be joined to qualify for Current Use. Jim makes motion, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

b. Building Permit Application-Craig Prim, 20 Marietta Lane, moved a mobile home from Stewartstown. Al reports that the previous mobile home had some sort of foundation and there is an RSA that says a mobile home must be secured to the ground. The applicant paid a late fee and permit fee. Would suggest the Selectmen sign with condition that mobile home has to be secured. Michael asks for motion with condition, Jim makes motion to sign with condition of mobile home being secured to ground, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

Al gives a Building Committee report. At Monday's meeting there was an oversight to take a vote to motion to recommend the warrant article amount of \$2,306,667 financing to build the Public Safety Building. There was an after vote and 10 of 13 of those who voted agreed to the recommendation. Need the Select Board to come up with legal verbiage. Al presents the paperwork to the Select Board and ask that if approved that the Select Board reapprove Al as the?????????

Next meeting is February 2nd and there is an info session on the Safety building plan on February 8th from 6pm to 9pm at St. Francis Hall.

Al asks Michael, why do jalapeno plants always shake? Michael tells Al that this is on the record? Al acknowledges, Michael responds that he does not know. Al says because they are chilly.

Norm Cotter asks why the town building is not an option to save the town money.

A discussion ensues with Michael, Jim, Bill, Norm and Robin on the pros and cons of making the town building ADA compliant and quotes associated and the debate for that proposal. Some reasons for building new are that the current area is too small to accommodate all the needs and to make state compliant as well as ADA compliant. The cost is prohibitive to retrofit. The current building is under a USDA loan and to retrofit would have to be under USDA plans. Robin suggests paying off the \$100,000 balance. This would enable the town to build as suited to the town,

and they would own the building versus renting. All offices would be in the new building.

Jim announces that he has sent out the new contracts for EMS service. Maidstone not happy with cost, they checked with Lancaster to find the cost was much higher and decided to go with Northumberland contract.

Ruth or Michelle???: In speaking with the computer provider there is grant money for computers. Just wanted to bring that up.

Michael asks if there is anything else for public session.

Michael asks for motion to go into non-public session, Jim makes motion, Bill seconds, 3-0 to go into non-public session at 6:35pm.

6. Adjournment:

Jim makes motion to adjourn at 6:54pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, February 2, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

**Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker**

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Member