

**Town of Northumberland**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**Meeting Minutes (Draft)**  
**Date: Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 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\***

**Board Members Present:** James Weagle, Chairman, Keith Bronson, William Caron via phone

**Others Present:** Becky Craggy, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, James Gibson, Kathy Frechette, PJ Pelletier, Robin Irving, Melinda Kennett, Greg Cloutier, George "Skip" Sansoucy, Sam Oakes, Jonathan Woodworth, Larry Boudle

**1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Jim opens the meeting.

**2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Jim asks for a motion to accept minutes. Keith makes motion to accept minutes, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

**3. Selectmen Business:**

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

James Gibson reports on Ambulance first. So far there have been 160 calls this year versus 195 calls last year.

Comstar receipts to date \$58,319.68

Covid is on the decline, 1 new case in Northumberland.

Article on the Ambulance Dept., appeared in Colebrook Chronicle, written by Donna Jordan. Very well written.

James explains that there will be more of a shortage of staffing after school lets out. He mentions that he has warned previous Select Boards that this would happen and now it is at that point. Staff is getting overworked, what to do.

Announces that May 16 – 26 is the National EMS Week. James would like to thank all in and out of community who serve.

Keith brings up what the protocol is to advertise.

James: we are locked into a volunteer position, no pay unless you go on a call.

William also wishes to thank all of the EMS people. Asks people to help find volunteers.

Norm Cotter asks if the ambulance outside is for sale.

Jim: not sure, it is decommissioned, should think about selling.

Norm says he thought there was \$90,000 appropriated for 3 ambulances

Jim: we got a grant worked by Robin to pay for all 3 ambulances.

Bill Joyce suggests a credit course for high school students.

Jim mentions there was something similar but the interest dwindled, may start a program similar to that again.

Peter Pelletier reports for the Police Department: There was an incident with an officer where the vehicle was towed. The officer was exposed to a fentanyl substance thru a piece of paper and had to Narcan himself to remain conscious. The suspect was arrested on felony charges, the vehicle was stolen from Berlin. Officer was hospitalized and he is back to work today.

Peter wants to express that this is a dangerous situation and cautions people not to handle suspect drugs, call the Police to handle.

To date there have been 138 calls for service, 36 car stops, 5 new investigations, 3 of which are felony. 6 arrests, 1 of which is a felony and 1 crash investigation.

Min Kennett asks about the car in the parking lot.

Peter reports that he has made many attempts to contact the owner and suddenly this person has become invisible. Will put a sign on the car asking the owner to come talk about the car.

b. Review, discussion, decision of Power House Systems PILOT agreement

Much discussion between Skip Sansoucy and Greg Cloutier on how numbers were arrived at, the thought of using the same PILOT as it is an unpredictable season, last year being so dry. Discussion of fairness to town, fairness to business owner, budgeting, comparisons of other businesses in town. No decision has to be made until September 1<sup>st</sup> to finalize if needed. Loss of income and loss of revenue.

Decision between Select Board and Power House Systems for a PILOT for 5 years is \$20,000 fixed base for taxes, but if there is overage on the agreed generation then the Town will get a check at the rate of .0085 per kw overage.

c. Vote to petition Superior Court for Special Town Meeting

Robin Irving brings up that there needs to have a vote this week on whether to petition the Superior Court on the Warrant article on the USDA money for the project on the hill. Some question on wording changes, waiting for Jamie Dow from DRA to respond. Hopefully will get a response soon and vote on Friday.

d. Revisit Mask wearing protocol

Jim leads discussion on current protocol and possibly lifting mask protocol. Discussion on vaccinations and mask wearing and elimination of appointment only, but limit the number of people in the building at one time.

Keith makes motion to keep the mask mandate in the town office the same until June 1st, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Use of Big Ball Field Request – GHS

Request from Groveton High School to use the ball field for graduation again this year. Graduation is on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, 22 graduates.

Norm Cotter asks why they have to ask permission.

Jim explains that the Town owns the ball field and if we wanted to use the school gym we would have to ask permission as well.

Min adds that it was the best graduation ever last year.

Keith makes motion to allow graduation on ballfield, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

f. Brookview Mobile Home Park Rep

Jonathan Woodworth, now current President of Brookview association explains that the Town owes Brookview \$8,200 in back lot rent for two properties on Marietta Lane. Town was given 6 months to remove the trailers but took another 10 months to get them moved. Loss of revenue to Brookview.

Discussion of how there was an agreement between Town and previous President that they could have more time. Verbal agreement, nothing in writing, if held outside of a public meeting not valid. A resolution is offered, not accepted. Select Board will get back to Woodworth in 2 weeks.

g. Cash Summary Report – April

James reads the cash summary:

Beginning balance: \$980,893.12

Revenue: \$243,137.94

Expenditures: \$288,854

\$96,905.46 in transfers

Ending balance: \$1,032,081.98

**4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:**

- a. Cease and Desist Order: 514 Lost Nation Road – mobile home brought in without a building permit. Served Cease and Desist – all late charges and fees and permits have been paid and signed.

b. First Half Issue Tax Warrant

Min presents the tax warrant for her to collect \$2,171,852. Explains to Keith how this works.

Select Board signs warrant.

c. Yield Tax Warrants (4)

Carl Parker, Trudy Parker and Melody Fogg - \$1,369.53

William makes motion to accept, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

John Call - \$100.19 William makes motion to accept, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Neil Ar????? - \$4,999.29 Keith makes motion to accept, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Joseph Keenan - \$2,132.94, William makes motion to accept, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Intents to Cut (2)

William and Deborah Joyce – Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Lost Nation Road – Town of Northumberland – Conservation Commission – William make motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Meeting Room Use Application – DOT training – non-profit, no fee.

May 18 from 8am to 12noon. Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

f. Building Permit Application

Ashley and Jarod Clauss – paid fee. Keith makes motion to approve, William

seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Archie and Deb Lewis – paid fee, signed by Building Facilitator. Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Jesiah Cloutier – has signed variance from Zoning Board, has paid all fees late and otherwise.

Kathy Freschette – Asks if the \$250 fee was included.

Jim: yes

Kathy: he did put up a fence and moved the rocks, very good about it.

Keith makes motion, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Land Use Change Tax Warrants (3)

Josh and Missy Philips – 2 parcels out of current use. Keith wants to look at the information and asks Jim why they are doing it. Jim explains that it is related to the sale of the property and the new owners need to know it has been taken out of current use. Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0

Judith K Barnes-Hight – parcel to be taken out of current use. Keith motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

h. Abatements (2)

Josette Paquette – change from Commercial back to Residential - \$60. William makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Brett Copin – change from Commercial back to Residential - \$30. William makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Wesley and Nancy Joy – change from Commercial back to Residential. Keith makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

**5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:**

Robin brings up that a venue to hold the Special Town Meeting at has to be chosen. Either the school gym or St. Francis. Town Meeting will be Saturday, September 11, 2021. Discussion on possible gym floors not being ready or a Mass at St. Francis that day.

Norm Cotter: Catholic Church? Missed why.

Jim: Explains that is a possible venue for the Special Town Meeting for the water project. Just not sure where yet.

Bill Joyce brings up the parking situation at 31 Cumberland Street. Dangerous intersection, vehicles parked in the way of traffic. Lots of big vehicle traffic, very hard to maneuver around the cars. Discussion of guard rails, signs, ticketing, town highway right of way. To be looked at.

Kathy Freschette brings up a dumpster parked in the road, another hazard.

Jim says that they will contact the owner and find out how long it will be there.

Sam Oakes asks for clarity from the Select Board for the coverage situation for ambulance and the expectations of the Board. Jim tells James Gibson he does not want the crew over extended. Work what you feel comfortable with. William reiterates the same and says there are other towns that can cover. Discussion of a stipend and how that helps staffing and that is something to look at.

Jim asks for motion to go into Non-Pub, Keith makes motion, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Into Non-Pub at 7:44pm.

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

- a. Follow up on resident matter
- b. Personnel Matters (2)

**7. Adjournment:** Keith makes motion to come out of non-pub at 8:17pm, second by William, all in favor, 3-0.

Motion to adjourn by William to adjourn at 8:19pm. Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, June 7, 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Kathan  
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on \_\_\_\_\_

X

---

James Weagle  
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

---

Bill Caron  
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

---

Keith Bronson  
Northumberland Select Board Member

**\*\*\*This institution is an equal opportunity provider, and employer.\*\*\***