

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, September 20th, 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: Bill Caron, Keith Bronson

Others Present: James Gibson, Betty Gilcris, Ken Strong, Norm Cotter, Kathy Frechette, Peter Pelletier, Richard Dupuis, Tracy Dupuis

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Bill (acting chair) opens the meeting and asks for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Keith makes motion to accept minutes from previous meeting, Bill seconds, all in favor, 2-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Dept. Head Business – Ambulance and Police Depts.

James Gibson for Ambulance gives his report: 403 calls to date, down from 431 calls at this time.

Comstar: \$110,854.54. Becky's number is \$124,516.97. Keith asks why the difference. James replies that his number is strictly for billing and Becky's number includes both billing and contracts.

Covid 19: All counties are considered substantial, we have only had 4 calls. Still working on staffing.

A3 unit will be going in for brake work.

Grants for the radios has come in. The grant is for \$75,000 in public safety radios.

James asks if the Selectmen have had a chance to look over his proposal for office help. He needs 2 people at 10 hours each to help with office work. The Selectmen have no problem with that. James to resend proposal and the Selectmen will vote on it at the next meeting. This money was already allocated for personnel, just changing it to 2 part time people.

Chief Peter Pelletier gives his report. From July 19 there have been 25 new investigations, 15 arrests and 1 car crash.

The switch to Grafton County has been completed. We have done 123 in house calls and 12 in house car stops. Grafton has done over 1,000 calls for us since July 19, disturbing it is so busy. Not all calls have been logged into the new system yet.

Everyone has received their certificates for Life Coaching. Books and tools have

been received for in crisis people. Unfortunately they may now eliminate funding for this program. They would like to have Groveton the hub. Chief Pelletier to meet with and discuss the need for keeping the funding if this were to happen.

Chief Pelletier explains that there are 2 ways to deal with crime. 85% of crime is drug related.

1. Jail – which keeps the person off the streets.
2. Rehab – which also keeps the person off the streets.

Sometimes these work, sometimes they don't.

A complimentary comment is made from the audience to Chief Pelletier that he has very good and professional officers working for him. Chief Pelletier is very thankful for the positive feedback.

Keith asks Chief Pelletier to meet with Bill and him in non-pub.

- b. Follow up discussion of lease agreement – 10 Station Square

Richard and Tracy Dupuis are present for conversation on the lease.

Bill mentions that the Select Board has a few issues with the contract.

The raise in rent and the request for a security deposit.

No problem with raising but this should start at the beginning of the year, not now. This has to be anticipated for next year's budget. Why is now after all of these years a security deposit being put in the contract? This usually happens at the first contract.

Richard explains that you wanted a new contract. This was done in anticipation of a new building. Bill explains that is not going to happen at this point. Keith adds that if something else were to come into play it would take years to implement.

Further discussion on who does the repairs, the need for more services to be provided the renter, various improvements that need to be made, for example, a roof over the handicapped access.

More discussion of what the Town has invested in the building, how much rent has been paid over 10 years. The Dupuis' pass on that they offered to sell the building to the Town. That originally it was going to be a Sports Bar, that it was all redone to accommodate the Town and Police Dept.

Decision to keep current lease agreement until first of next year, continue discussion of services, take out security deposit. To vote on when Jim gets back.

Additional discussion on outside lighting, how solar lights would work.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Building Permit Application – 73 Hillside Ave. – Ken Strong

Al signed. Motion to approve by Keith, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 2-0.

Some side discussion on Ken wanting to help the town.

- b. Discussion/decision of abatement request – Cumberland Ave. – Betty Gilcris.

Discussion by Betty on how much damage and cost the water has caused; a new hot water heater, clothes washer and lost clothing.

More discussion on solutions to the problem, possibly a bypass at end of loop as suggested by Reggie.

Selectmen are very sympathetic. Bill makes motion the Betty Gilcris does not get a water or sewer bill from Groveton until this matter is resolved. Keith seconds, all in favor, 2-0.

Betty says there are others who are complaining. Bill tells Betty to tell the others to come before the Board. Betty thanks the Board.

- c. Not on Agenda: Because of all the abatements over rental properties to commercial Bill makes a motion to revert back to residential rental properties from commercial rental properties. Keith seconds, all in favor, 2-0.

- d. Submission of MS1 – Summary of Valuation Form and MS232 – Voted appropriations form from 9/11/21 meeting.

Both the MS1 and the MS232 have been voted on, signed and submitted and accepted by the State. The MS232 also includes the recent Public Hearing.

- e. Non-Resident transfer station permit application – 57 Wemyss Dr.

Bill makes motion to approve, Keith seconds, all in favor, 2-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Announcement – Groveton Village Precinct – Meeting of Commissioners on Wed. Oct 20 at 6pm, or Zoom if needed.

- b. Announce – 10/27/21 – work session notice 10:00 am – Noon – 10 Station Sq. This is for the Select Board to review process as relevant to upcoming budget tax rate setting and to go over Town Meeting process with Town Officials and relevant staff.

- c. Kathy Frechette brings up various overhanging branches over sidewalks in Town. Also there is a bush growing up over the One Way Street sign.

Selectmen thank Kathy for bringing this to their attention and will look into it.

Bill makes motion to go into Non-Pub at 7:30pm, Keith seconds, roll call vote, all in favor, 2-0.

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

- a. 2 Personnel Matters

Public session reconvenes at 8:07pm. Motion made by Bill to seal Non-Pub minutes, Keith seconds, all in favor, 2-0.

- 7. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 8:09pm by Bill, seconded by Keith, all in favor, 2-0.

X

Bill Caron
Acting Chair for Northumberland Select Board

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Member

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