

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Public Hearing Notice
Business Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, August 16th, 2021

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: Public Hearing 6:00 P.M.

Board Business meeting to convene immediately following adjournment of public hearing

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

Select Board Members present: Jim Weagle, Chairman, Keith Bronson, Bill Caron (via phone)

Others present: Leo Frizzell, James Gibson, Betty Gilcris, Al Rossetto, Pam Kathan, Theresa Cormier, Michael Cormier, Kim Howson, Lise Howson, Sen. Erin Hennessey, Susan Wentworth, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Susan Marineau, Kathy Frechette, Mike Humphrey, Hilary Glens

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET AND WARRANT

1. Chairman opens the Public Hearing – Jim opens public hearing. Discussion ensues.
2. Review/discussion/recommendation of Budget/Warrant for Special Town Meeting for September 11, 2021
The cost of the project would be \$6,870,000. \$5,119,000 to come from loan, \$1,751,000 to come from USDA.

Discussion of Cares Act money, and the assignment of tax to users versus non-users of the water/sewer system.

Why do non-users have to pay more. All tax payers own the water/sewer regardless of use. The fee schedule will be developed based on use. Cumberland, High and Pennett streets are dead ends, have brown water, need to be looped by upgrading old system.

Erin Hennessey interjects that wording should be added to the warrant to accept additional grants. This will help lower the cost.

Some road blocks such as ledge that has to be removed. Budgeted in, may be less if soft ledge, but then there are root intrusions.

Al Rossetto very concerned with paying \$70,000 for a backflow preventer for Guildhall VT. Vermont says they do not need so will not pay. Groveton water system could be contaminated by Guildhall if preventer not in place. Guildhall hopeful for grants to help pay. Their fees are in line with Groveton residents and will remain so.

A question asked if more money can be borrowed if approved or is the Town bonded out. Pretty much bonded out.

The 2 wells that supply the town are on Brown Road. A new well for Summer Street would cost over a million dollars. Terri Charron reminds all that the deadline for the Public Hearing was tonight, and there are other deadline schedules that have to be met to have the Special Town Meeting.
3. Setting of Time for Special Town Meeting: 10AM on Saturday Sept 11, 2021 at St. Francis Hall. 9AM service for 9-11 tragedy remembrance.
4. Adjournment of Public Hearing: Jim adjourns the Public Hearing.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS MEETING

1. Chairman opens the meeting: Jim opens the Select Board meeting and asks for motion to accept minutes.
2. Acceptance of Minutes: 6/21 minutes as amended and attached to these minutes: Keith makes motion to accept minutes with changes, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

Peter Pelletier not present.

Jim Gibson gives report. 337 calls down 28 from last year at this time of 365.

Comstar last reported: \$103,403.95

Covid 19 – County risk is substantial but no calls

Staffing with a past employee rejoined.

Jim suggests use of salary of previous position for use for an office assistant to help out. Decision by Select Board tabled until next meeting.

b. Erin Hennessey – Legislative Update

Erin Hennessey introduces herself as the State Senate Representative for District 1.

Explains that there is money out there, especially for water and sewer projects.

\$40,000 more annual return to town in rooms and meals tax, per SB99. The rooms and meals tax has been reduced from 9 to 8.5%.

17 ½ million for education funding for those that have a high participation in the reduced lunch program.

Capital Gains tax to be phased out over 5 years.

This information can be gained on the web, New Hampshire Legislative Budget Assistance or NHLBA online.

c. Pam Kathan – Brooklyn Dam Hydro Manager – Planned Maintenance Notice

Briefly explained that there would be a drawdown to service Brooklyn Dam for maintenance and allow Groveton Hydrogen Plant to repair water lines.

d. Vote to seal nonpublic session minutes from August 2nd meeting.

Jim makes mention that the SB needs to vote on a suggestion by the minute taker that the last meeting Non-Pub minutes should be sealed. Keith makes motion to seal non-pub minutes from August 2 meeting, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Betty Gilcris – Discussion about water service

Explains that her electric for boiling water and water use to get clear water has gone up. That the abatement she received was inadequate. Lot of clothes stained, bath water brown. She has film and water samples to show the condition of the water. Discussion between Betty and Reggie, suggesting a bypass to try and help. Betty agreeable to this.

f. Discussion/vote to sign curbside garbage removal yearly contract with higher rate presented at Town Meeting. Bill makes motion to sign contract, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

g. Discussion/decision of proposal received by Solid Waste Dept. Head

Bill expresses concern on whether the Race Track is willing to recycle their rubbish in order to be picked up by D4 and be brought to Town. Further discussion with Al Rossetto bringing up that recycling is very precise, any amount of improperly recycled material will have adverse effects on the Town. Race Track owner asks for suggestions of how to get his rubbish removed, has enough problems getting rid of his septic. The suggestion to the owner is to make a deal with Doug, that would be the best.

h. Under provisions of RSA 31:95 B acceptance of first tranche of LFRF money from the State of New Hampshire \$111,965.57. Motion by Bill to accept, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

i. Motion to accept the rewording of the Emergency Plan, adopt the NIMS wording. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Veterans Credit Application(s)(2) – 7 Grandview Dr. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

b. Building Permit Application – 350 Brown Rd. Al has signed, they have paid fee. Bill makes

motion to approve application, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- c. Abatement – Water/Sewer – 18 Graham St. \$120. Keith makes motion to accept abatement, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- d. "Housekeeping" Abatement – Water/Sewer – 22 Hall Rd. Keith makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

Kathy Freschette makes suggestion to clarify the date of the next Select Board meeting, it will be in 3 weeks, not 2.

Signs by the High School were to be covered but were taken down instead. The need to be put back before plowing season. Residents still need to be asked if they want them or not.

- 6. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II (c)):Motion to go into non-pub at 7:40pm by Keith, seconded by Bill, all in favor, 3-0. Roll Call.

Motion by Bill to come out of Non-Pub, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Public session: Motion to accept Robin Irving's resignation by Bill, Keith seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- 7. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:55pm by Bill, seconded by Keith, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, September 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan

Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by 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

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