

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Date: June 6, 2022

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting wearing of masks is encouraged for all individuals

Select Board Members Present: Keith Bronson Chairman, Jim Tierney, Bill Caron

Others Present: Tammy Letson Town Administrator, Al Rossetto, Glenn Cassady, Judy Fox, Sean Durkin, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Kathy Frechette

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Keith opens the meeting at 6pm and asks for a motion to accept the minutes.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes: Correction to Minutes of 5/16/22 – strike “backup date of September 12, no conflict, day before primary”.** Jim makes motion to accept minutes with noted correction, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0
- 3. Department Head Business:** Highway and Water/Sewer Depts.
Glenn Cassady gives report for the Highway Dept.
Gas prices are driving up the expense of mowing with an average of \$200 per week. This was not budgeted for. One vehicle takes \$150 a week to fill its tank. Discussed with personnel on conserving, less trips, take everything you think you might need the first time.

Finished the pool as much as possible, 5 leaks total on suction end.

Tammy has pictures if the Select Board would like to review.

The cause was from over compacting and that broke the pipes, not the frost.

People have been swimming in it already, water is cold.

Lines have not yet been painted; the good line paint is on backorder. Another paint can be found locally but is not the quality of the line paint used.

Have been ditching and fixing culverts, the dirt roads are holding up well.

Al Rossetto comments that Page Hill is smooth.

Jim Tierney brings up the condition at the end of Page Hill.

Glenn replies that is all State property and probably won't be fixed until after the

project is done.

Glenn reports that Tammy and he have discussed the \$50,000 paving money and want to ask the Select Board if they would put the money aside and save until next year because of all the rising costs.

Discussion continues regarding the condition of Melcher Court and First and Second Streets condition, needs paving badly. Glenn suggests seal coating the cracks instead of paving, works well and will last for some time. More discussion on rising fuel prices, sealing would work best for now but Glenn to get a quote for paving. Jim and Tammy explained that money for paving comes from a CRF outside of the budget and would not have a negative impact.

Glenn continues, mentioning he does have enough work to keep people busy. Sean Durkin brings up the Normandeau tank removal as a project to be done now as well as house demo for green space but need grants. Tammy will investigate. Further discussion on the Normandeau tank, monitoring devices, agreement that this would make a good project.

Tammy brings up that there are two employees that have passed their CDL tests, one employee has a manual restriction. Thank you to Pete Marshall for helping them to get their licenses. Pete replies that he was glad to help, will help on the manual transmission and has learned new things along the way.

Reggie Charron for Water and Sewer gives his report. It took 178,000 gallons of water and 4 to 4 ½ days to fill the pool. Water demand is up 3 million gallons over the past year but feels it is due in part to the pool project. There are still some leaks but will monitor to see where we are at. Thank you to Glenn and Randy for heading up the pool project.

Good news is that Lost Nation is down 36,300 gallons of use and have a new customer to add onto the system.

Worked with a resident on Cumberland Street and found that the bypass in the house next to her was still working, so turned it on and it is running, flushed the lines, hope this bypass will run year-round.

St. Marks Hall had not been turned on and off for 3 years and became stuck, but now it is fixed. The Church and hall properties shut offs were discussed.

A new water line installed at LaFlamme's, was paid for by owner. The use of a line freezer from Lancaster made the job quicker and with less effort. This would be a very useful tool to have.

On the sewer end, both pumps on Brooklyn Street were plugged again, and the grinder pumps have been ordered.

Later this month there will be hydrant flushing and 2nd quarter meter reads to do. With mowing around the septic fields, the two young guys are doing a great job, good workers.

Not a lot of projects are being done. The cost of sodium hypochlorite for 1000 gallons was \$3,000, up 30 cents per gallon. Tablets finally found and ordered at \$6.28 for the 3-inch tabs versus \$55 per pound at Walmart. Trying to watch the budget.

Tammy just put in a pre-application for the hill project with DES, a 30% increase over last years amount.

Sean Durkin asks if there is a standard tap fee. Reggie says yes, material cost. Discussion on tap fee per size of line, impact fee for businesses, and resident pays fee if within 100 feet of the line.

4. Matters from the public:

Al would like to pat Tammy on the head for getting the library new computers, printers, and monitors with a grant. The grant for \$4,940 for four new computers, monitors, and printers.

Terri Charron lets Tammy know that as Supervisor of the Checklist she will need a computer upgrade per the IT guy. Tammy will investigate getting a grant for that.

Norm Cotter brings up a problem with trash on the side of a highway, need an organization to pick up the trash as the State is not picking it up.

Reggie brings up that the State is also not picking up after storms either and that there could be a liable suit with the trees. Need someone to adopt the highway, contact the state and be persistent.

Judy Fox was unhappy with traffic not being stopped for the Memorial Day Service. No one could hear it, very disrespectful. Discussion by Select Board regarding a

request must be submitted to stop traffic to the State and if granted then the local Police can enforce. The Legion must request this. Tammy reports that no request was submitted by the town. All agreed that this was very disrespectful to the service.

Kathy Frechette brings up a garage that is falling at the Doherty residence and wants to know what's up with that? Same house that had the big dumpster in the road. The house was emptied and is now left there with no activity. Discussion ensues about the houses in town that are in disrepair.

Al Rossetto asks the Select Board to give him direction on which properties they would like him to investigate. Also not mowing lawns is becoming a problem but nothing can be done about that. Kathy asks Tammy if she would look up junk yard regulations, Tammy has it on her list.

5. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Discussion/vote – Grant award/agreement/authorize/vote-Drinking Water Groundwater Trust Fund-Source Water Protection Grant – Tammy got the final word on the 50% grant for Mayhew property but needs a designee to sign the forms. Tammy asks if Keith will be signing. Jim makes motion for Tammy to be the designee to sign, Keith seconds, all in favor 3-0. Tammy has forms that need to be signed for the designee. Keith to be in tomorrow to sign.
- b. Discussion/vote to accept health insurance premium holiday credit \$7,581.95. Tammy wants to know if the Select Board will also give the employees a holiday credit from their premiums as has been done in the past. Jim makes motion to accept premium holiday credit, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Jim makes motion to accept premium holiday credit for employees, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- c. Update on TCCAP Connect site visit – Tammy explains on the trailer for Tri County Cap. People came and looked at the lot, liked it but had a question about the breaker. Just a question and will use what we have, nothing to change.
- d. Discussion/decision – agreement for engineering services. Agreement for Horizons to continue monitoring the ground water as they have been doing. Jim makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- e. Discussion of covered bridge – Tammy reports that a resident came to her and alerted her to an ant/termite problem on the bridge. Al confirms there is an ant problem, attributed to the age and condition of the bridge. Bill brings up the graffiti problem on the bridge. Discussion on the current game camera to capture activities on the bridge. Norm asks if cameras are something that can be investigated, Tammy says there is a game camera now, but pictures must be downloaded. Sean mentions that a camera service is available by subscription, he will donate cameras to the town if they want to subscribe.

Bill mentions that the decking on the bridge is getting spongy. More discussion on holes in the decking boards from snow mobiles and that needs to be brought up to the snow mobile club to repair. Norm asks what will be done about the ants, Al will further investigate and a discussion on how to fix ensues.

- f. Donations of property.

Tammy explains to the Select Board that through the tax deeded property process of a commonly owned parcel, the town owns 80% of a property located North off of Route 3. An owner of 1/70th wants to donate that to the town. This is a multiple point issue, an issue of town liability. There are 11 owners' total. Jim wants to consult lawyers, starting with NHMA.

Tammy informs the board that there is one owner who wants to buy the town's 80%, does the board want to pursue this avenue? Is the town interested in the 1/70th donation? If not, the owner offering to buy the 80% can be contacted by the other owner and asked if wants to buy the 1/70th. There are 2 abatements coming later regarding this property.

- g. Tammy relays to the board that there needs to be a transfer station attendance letter sent to an individual because of his behavior, ongoing issue.
- h. Tammy relays there are personality conflicts within the Beautification Committee, which are affecting the town offices. Glenn relays the Highway Department has lots of hours working for this committee and requests for their involvement seems to keep growing. Board states that all requests for any department help must go through the department head and / or Town Administrator. There shall be no requests made directly to employees. Board states the Beautification Committee will remain separate from the Town and any requests of funds will include majority

of committee approval.

- i. Tammy asks if the Covid policies are the same. The auditors are asking. No change, keep the same. Appointments recommended, doors locked, masks recommended.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Unlicensed dog Warrant – Jim motions to sign warrant, Bill seconds, all in favor 3-0.

- b. Abatement(s) (3)

\$18.31 A. Brasseur, 10 Central Ave. bought parts from the town, 1 not used, abatement for the amount that represents returned parts. Jim motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

\$202.43 Town of Northumberland. Acct. 1447/Serial 3790 property North off Stratford Road. Abatement of taxes, this is Town owned property currently and is exempt from taxation. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

\$323.00 Town of Northumberland. Acct. 1447/Serial 4629 property on Stratford Road. Abatement of taxes, this is Town owned property currently and is exempt from taxation. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- c. Non-Resident property owner transfer station permit application – new, Bessette. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- d. Intent to Cut – William Joyce, Map 216 Lot 003. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- e. Timber Yield Tax Warrant – Neil Cyriac - \$2,240.65 – Jim makes motion to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- f. Building Permit Application(s)

Shawn Swallow, 1166 Lancaster Rd., Map 240, Lot 19. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Al to sign.

Corey Avery, 954 Lancaster Rd., Map 237, Lot 026. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Home Depot and Styles applications- 8 Marietta Lane, Map 229, Lot 025, MH02. Jim makes motion to sign both permits. Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Jim makes motion to refund the \$100 fee as Styles already paid and 2 permits are not needed. Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Chris Shepard – 95 Thompson Road, Map 226, Lot 3. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

WRS, Michael Francis, - Longview Dr. Map 251, Lot 013, lot 2. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Annual Junk Yard Permit Renewal – Owners Pete & Nancy Marshall. Lancaster Road., Map 240, Lot 007. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Discussion followed with Pete saying he sees a lot of junk yards without permits in town. Letters have been sent but will send again. Planning Board has been involved, discussion of lawn art, that is one time only. If a camper is registered it can be there if not, then taxes will be applied.

Kathy Frechette asks how much a building permit costs. \$100 if material is over \$5,000, under \$5,000 no permit needed. Fee is \$250.00 if improvements change the value of the property by \$50,000. Permit good for one year, can renew for a second year, if it is a change in footprint that would be different.

7. Announcements: None

8. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II ()): Jim makes motion to go into Non-Public at 7:57pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Roll call vote all yes in the positive.

- a. Personnel Matter(s)
- b. Resident Matter (TL)

Jim makes motion to come out of Non-Public at 8:20 pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Public resumes.

1st resident Jim makes motion to abate welfare lien, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

2nd matter, 2 more payments required to fulfill lien or the legal obligation. Jim motions to accept, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

9. Adjournment: Bill makes motion to adjourn at 8:22pm, Jim seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, June 20, 202

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 Selectboard Member