



Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
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www.northumberlandnh.org

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, November 7th, 2022

Place: CONFERENCE ROOM – 19 MAIN STREET

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Select Board Members Present: Keith Bronson (Chairman), James Tierney, Bill Caron

Others present: Tammy Letson (Town Administrator), Al Rossetto, Reginald Charron, Terri Charron, Roach, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Sean Durkin, Ryan Shannon, William Daisey, Michell Randall, Peter J. Pelletier, Kathy Frechette, Al Beland, Glenn Cassady

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Keith opens the meeting at 6pm and asks for a motion to accept minutes of October 17th.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Correction of 10/17/22 draft minutes – HasBrouck is not hyphenated. Jim makes motion to accept with corrections, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- 3. Department Head Business:** Highway and Water/Sewer

Glenn Cassady, Town Road Agent reports: Winter pre-maintenance done, oils changed in trucks, plows to go on soon. Mowing equipment prepped for winter and put away.

Paving to begin Wednesday or Thursday, milling crew is coming in depending on rain.

Permission from State and Dig Safe to install winter ban signs on Thursday.

Salt contract signed by Keith, \$98/ton compared to \$86/ton last year, hoping for a mild winter.

Communicating with Reggie for projects to do while warm weather is still present.

Some vacations going on.

Al Beland? Asks about a discussed additional cubicle for sand, Glenn replies that there seems to be no issue with what is there now.

Glenn reports that Reed is currently cold patching.

Kathy Frechette brings up a parking situation near her home that may cause a plowing problem. Some discussion by several on awareness and resolution.

Reggie Charron, Town Supervisor of Water and Sewer reports: Preparing for winter, still have some dead ends to flush.

Notices sent out to seasonal homeowners about heating for the winter so the pipes do not freeze and break.

Sewer assisted with a private lateral, removed an old tree that was 12 ½ feet deep, all good.

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We had the DES inspection, and all went well.

Wastewater takes 20 to 25 hours per week with maintenance in the summer, now in good shape for winter. Hydrants are on hold.

Norm Cotter asks why a taxpayer cannot use town equipment to fix private system.

Tammy Letson replies that insurance does not allow for use by private residents because of the liability that taxpayers would have if something went wrong.

4. **Matters from the public:**

Kathy Frechette asked about the Maple St camper situation.

Tammy spoke to the Board about that situation, some cleanup has been made and promise of putting the camper under cover next summer.

Discussion ensues with the lack of water shutoff, a house sitter will be present in the winter, but is the house habitable? There is no furnace. Maybe the Fire Chief, Health Inspector and Building Inspector need to inspect house. His "punch list" finally done, winter residents live in basement of house, dangerous situation. If the Board wants an inspection, Tammy can set up.

Al Beland speaks that he would like to take over the lighting of the Christmas tree previously done by Reggie and Terri Charron. Would like to move the tree to Chapman Park, electricity provided to Town for free. Select Board has no problem with Al taking over.

5. **Town Administrator Business:**

- a. Review/discussion/decision of sealed bids received for 2006 Ambulance: Only one bid received for the 2006 Ford Ambulance by Kevin Gay for \$2,179. November 7th was the deadline to submit sealed bids.

Bill asks about the estimate from a dealer.

Tammy said that North Country Ford laughed and said sell for what you can get for it.

Jim makes motion to accept sealed bid of \$2,179 from Kevin Gay for 2006 Ford Ambulance, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Roach asks how soon another ambulance will be bought after this sale.

Tammy explains that there are still 2 ambulances, A2 was sold, still have A1 and A3.

Roach asks where the sale money is going.

Tammy says it will go into the General Fund. At the Town Meeting the Select Board can ask for it to be designated to the Ambulance Fund.

- b. Discussion of January 2023 Selectmen meeting dates: Tammy explains that Monday meetings seem to fall on holidays. There are 2 choices, going Tuesdays after holidays or switching to 2nd and 4th weeks for meetings. Discussion by Select Board on plans, Tuesdays after holidays seem to be the consensus.
- c. Cargill Salt Contract. Tammy explains that the contract for salt has been signed. Bill asks if that is for 22 tons per truck, Glenn says it is for 32 tons per truck.
- d. Discussion of USDA "Hill Project" funds: Tammy explains that the funding package for the other half of the Hill Project is still available, 2 million in grants and 5 ½ million in loans. Town would be in a hardship. USDA rep talking to Tammy, Reggie and Keith to keep negotiations open. The concern that the Town needs more business to make more of a tax base.

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Tammy recommends keeping negotiations ongoing or put a warrant to the Town's people as presented. Jim says it can be presented, but Tammy cautions to revisit if bonds are needed.

- e. ARPA Funds follow up: Tammy reports that most of the things the Town would spend on Town Government can use ARPA funds, does not have to be just Water and Sewer. Discussion of paving being covered, after installation of grinder there will be \$161,000 left to use.

Tammy states that you have until 2024 to decide and 2026 to use the funds. Don't have to decide tonight.

- f. Discussion/decision of Health Trust insurances for 2023

Tammy reports on insurance rates for the Town. Dental went up 1 1/2% but that is not bad, it puts us back to 2021 rates unexpectedly. Short term disability and life have gone up 17%, but the premium is only \$500 per year. Not much of an increase. Signed by Select Board.

- g. Zoning Board Appointment – C. Bramlet. Select Board to sign for Bramlet to be appointed to the Zoning Board along with Durkin. Liz created a sheet to sign for appointees to the Zoning Board.
- h. Other: Tammy reports that she has received a letter from CALEB (Interface Volunteer Caregivers) stating that as of October 31st all services have been suspended. The lack of volunteers and inflation have caused this.

Kathy Frechette asks what can be done?

Tammy explains that there were alternatives brought forth, Tri County Transit, Door to Door Services, and a bus service that covers many towns.

Tammy lets the Select Board know that Coos County has received a second wave of ARPA funds. An application is open for projects per ARPA rules. Grinders were purchased but can use funds for the Village Project. December 9th is the deadline. Berlin and Colebrook received money.

Jim asks if it is good for paving?

Tammy to find out.

Jim announces that it costs lots of money to grind and pave, Tammy will have to check and suggest Jim, as a newly elected representative, bring it up.

Discussion on budget review meetings starting. December has Select Board meetings on the 5th and 19th. Starting December 1st to discuss, Tammy to finish her paperwork and agrees to December 1st.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Building Permit Application (s) – Sean Durkin, Map 256, Lot 001-04 – Rae Rd., construction of a 14' x 20' canopy for a vehicle, Fine Home Building to construct. Jim makes motion to sign application, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Fee paid, Al to sign. Tammy asks for confirmation that the property is out of Current Use. Sean confirms.
- b. Map 205, Lot 017 – Stratford Rd. Brian and Suzanne Batchelder, 2 lean to off an existing storage container, one 8x10, one 10x20. Fee paid, Al to sign. Jim makes motion to sign application, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.
- c. Transfer Station Non-Resident Permit Application – 292 Page Hill Rd. New application from

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Jonathan Wilkes, map 246, lot 21. Fee paid. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- 7. **Announcements:** Tammy announces that Town Offices will be closed on Friday November 11th in observance of Veteran’s Day. Bill mentions there will be gathering for Veteran’s at Carter Hall on Wednesday.

Also, Town Offices will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after.

Jim makes motion to go into Non-Public at 7:01pm, Select Board roll call vote.

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

Jim makes motion to come out of Non-Public at 7:54pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Public session continued, minutes not to be sealed.

Adjournment: Jim makes motion to adjourn at 7:55pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan

Northumberland Select Board Minute Taker

Next meeting November 21, 2022

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on _____

X

Keith Bronson
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Jim Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Member