



Town of
Northumberland
Office of Selectmen
19 Main St
Groveton NH 03582
Phone (603) 636-1450
Fax (603) 636-6098

www.northumberlandnh.org

**Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - Draft**

Date: Monday, April 3, 2023

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members present: Bill Caron, Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle
Others present: Tammy Letson, Al Rossetto, Jack Bernard, Norm Cotter, Sean Durkin, Ryan Shannon, Jerry Monahan, Nancy Merrow, William Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, Glenn Cassidy, Reggie & Terri Charron, Melinda Kennett, Amanda Anderson, Michael Humphrey, Robin Irving, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** B. Caron opened the meeting at 6:00 PM
- 2. Appointment of Vice Chairman:**

Motion to nominate J. Tierney as Vice Chairman by: B. Caron
2nd by: J. Weagle, 2-0 in Favor, 1 Abstained

- 3. Acceptance of Minutes: 3/13/23, 3/20/23, 3/22/23**

03/13/23 – Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: B. Caron, 2-0 in Favor, 1 Abstained

03/20/23 – Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

03/22/23 - Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, 2-0 in Favor, 1 Abstained

- 4. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer**

Highway - Glenn Cassidy

Since the last meeting they have been chasing scattered storms. Went through 1 load of salt, there is approx. 1 and a half loads left in the shed; Glenn will call the distributor to see about getting some additional loads before the price goes up in September; there is money in the budget for it. J. Tierney said there is approx. 41% left in the budget.

They have been spending a lot of time on the back roads with the York rake; the frost is coming out. With the Vet closed on Page Hill there seems to be less traffic, so the road hasn't been too bad. He is making a list of culverts that will need to be changed over the summer.

There is more freezing rain forecast for this week. They haven't stripped the equipment off yet but have started cleaning it up. They have done a lot of cold patching, with still more to do.

The street sweeper will be coming in later this month. The parking ban is still in effect until the end of April. Glenn noted there are people parking on the street, he'll work with the Chief to get vehicles moved.



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Had to plow Page Hill and the sidewalks on Saturday.

Going into cleanup for the summer, assessing what needs to be done over the summer.

It was quiet for assisting the W/S Dept, but there was an issue with the pump in Northumberland, which has been fixed.

Water / Sewer – Reggie

Demand For March was better than Feb. at the water plant; we dropped 20,000-25,000 gallons/day. We have stopped the winter Running Water program. Trying to get back to normal as normal can be. We are still using water somewhere, but nothing is popping up. It's got to be a demand somewhere. They are finishing the meter readings today. The bills will be going out soon. He's keeping an eye on it.

March was a great month with consistent readings. Going into April (the first 4 days) we have dropped another 5,000 gallons. We are starting to see some changes. In the wintertime we do not meter on some of the bypasses. It would be nice to know what our winter usage would be. This winter wasn't that cold, but we had some issues with some extreme cold; there were 3 - 2" breaks at Ocean State, we probably lost over 8,000 gallons. Glens daughter was driving by and noticed an issue.

Working on the EPA, DES water regulations, we received an update on the new permitting, which doesn't affect us. PFAS are a big issue right now, in water and sewer plus at landfills. T. Letson asked Reggie for clarification on the PFAS; he said we don't have an issue right now. It's become a national issue and is getting more attention, which could be an issue for all of us.

Water sampling will be done tomorrow – 04/04/23. Working on the quarterly reports. Scheduled the Town wide sewer cleaning – w/o of Aug 2-10 and the 14 & 15th if money provides our 60 hours. The Brooklyn St. pump station grinder retrofit will happen within those 2 weeks. He wants to clean up the east side of Town, then pump everything out, clean everything and do the retrofit the next day. He is trying to correlate both projects at the same time. The contractors are all very busy and will be over the summer months.

He has started working on the Hill sewer project, looking at blueprints. He has someone on the hill that wants to put in W/S that has some specialty stuff. There is another person on Hillside Ave behind Second St. that someone sees potential in a building on that street.

5. *Requested Agenda Matters:

Alan Rossetto – AVR RDD first alternate and secondary alternate appointments.

He has been a rep for 8 years, missing only 4 meetings over that time. We can have 2 alternates. Tammy has offered to be the 2nd alternate. Keith Bronson is the 1st alternate but however has been very busy. Al asked the Board to nominate Tammy Letson as the 2nd alternate. B. Caron asked if we need to re-nominate Al this year; Tammy said Al and Keith are good until 2024. Al said there is a lot going on in May at AVR RDD when he is on vacation.

Motion to nominate Tammy Letson as the 2nd alternate for AVR RDD by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0



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6. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Jake Brake by Riverside Dr. – B. Caron received a complaint approx. 1 month ago and has since heard them on Route 3 North as well. The State has signs that indicate “No Jake Brakes” that could be put up. It would be a Town regulation that needs State approval to post signs. Discussion ensued about the locations where the noise has been an issue and speed limits Route 110, Route 3 North and South. J. Weagle said if approved by the State they would ask the Town to put them up. T. Letson said if the Board wants this pursued, we can work with the State for approval. Glenn said maybe the signs should be posted further out.

A. Anderson commented, aren’t Jake brakes to slow a truck down? She is trying to understand the complaint. J. Weagle said the trucks are Jake braking hard. R. Charron said they start at 2:00 am.

B. Caron asked for a motion to pursue. R. Charron said it’s bad on Route 3 north, and they live with it, but is worried about the school because they wait before using the brake.

J. Monahan asked if anyone knows what brake fade is? It’s when the brake gets too hot–they refuse to work anymore. If you take a jake brake off an 85,000 lb. truck and try to stop it, you don’t want to be in front of it.

A Anderson asked if they had looked at the safety or at putting the signs further back.

B. Caron said it’s up to the State to set the speed limits. J. Weagle said we have tried to work with the State, they won’t change it. R. Charron lives with the noise because at least they are trying to slow down. His worry is near the school.

Al Rossetto agreed it is hard to stop an 85,000 lb. vehicle. However, if the vehicle is doing 50 mph and declines to 30; the brakes should be capable of slowing them down. If they were not speeding it wouldn’t be an issue. There is a lack of enforcement in the rules of the road.

J. Monahan said taking the jake brake away is not going to prevent them from speeding. However, he does agree with what Al said.

Motion to work with the State for approval to put up “No Jake Brake” signs near the Welcome signs by: B. Caron
2nd by: J. Weagle, 2 in Favor, 1 Abstained.

There are signs in Berlin on 110. J. Monahan asked if there was a time limit put on the signs, that would help. The Board is fine with that and will work with the State.

Motion to include a time limit or whatever the State allows by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

- b. Discussion of fuel pricing for the upcoming heating season – T. Letson said we normally do this in the fall; however, the school has asked if we want to bid with them. With the volume, it would drop the price by approx. .50/gal, it does make it a little cheaper. It



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would bring us back to CN Brown instead of Irving. There would be separate contracts for the School and the Town. J. Tierney mentioned that the price of oil went up today. T. Letson said they (the school) want to reach out to CN Brown tomorrow to lock in a price. They have checked with others, but CN Brown has had the best price.

Motion to go with the school for oil by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Ryan Shannon asked if there needs to be 3 bids. T. Letson said that would fall under our Purchase Policy, T. Letson discussed. The purchase policy is vague in areas when it comes to something like oil. We usually start working on the prices in the fall; the school starts earlier.

Glenn Cassady mentioned Dead River has been prominent in Littleton area.

- c. Discussion of broadband letter of commitment - T. Letson said the north county has been awarded a \$40,000,000 grant for broad band to the areas of Towns that don't have it. Coos County would like to continue with the original committee that NCC was running. They are asking if we would send a letter of commitment to be part of the committee.

Motion to sign a letter of commitment by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Al Rossetto – Broad Band, meaning what? J. Tierney said he understands it's through Fidium Fiber and there are up to 380 homes and/or businesses they are looking at. He's not sure what Lancaster is getting and wasn't sure how it would affect Al. Al said he's maybe 3 houses away from where the poles end. J. Weagle said the last time they were talking about going up Lost Nation and branching out from there. T. Letson said we are getting a large chunk of it, and she understands Lancaster may get very little. J. Tierney suggested going online to Fidium Fiber.com and searching for Groveton.

Jack Bernard mentioned Consolidated has been running a new fiber line up Lost Nation. He thought someone had put up a broadband tower up. J. Weagle said he thought it was a repeater.

The Board will revisit the committee appointments at another meeting.

- d. Discussion/decision of various committee/commission appointments

Conservation Commission – Brian Sullivan

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Conservation Commission – Ed Mellett

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Conservation Commission - Gordon Gray

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Rec Committee – Wanda Cloutier

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0



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Rec Committee - Ben Hickey

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Zoning Board – Ryan Shannon

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Planning Board – Nicole Canavan

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Highway Agent – Glenn Cassidy

Motion to approve appointment by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Norm Cotter asked if the Road Agent appointment is new; the Board said no it happens every year.

J. Weagle has found out that he cannot be an alternate on the Zoning Board. A Board member can't be the chair but can be a Vice Chair. J. Tierney suggested taking it to the Town; if there isn't anyone interested then we will revisit.

- e. Discussion/decision of meeting house application received – 1 received from Bob Roby
Motion to appoint Bob Roby as Meeting House attendant by: J. Weagle
2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0
- f. Discussion of 3M PFAS Subpoena – T. Letson said we were issued a subpoena by 3M, which was huge and nasty. The Board was polled, and it was assigned to the attorneys. They have been working on it and they have learned it's left Federal Court and has dropped to the State level; the Federal court didn't want it. So, the subpoena we received is invalid; most likely a new one will be coming for the State level. It was described as 3M is being proactive and going after the State of NH which is one of the 2 strictest states in the nation on PFAS. They are trying to make sure this doesn't turn into a contest like Exxon Mobil and ends up in a large lawsuit.

T. Letson recommended that we hold onto all correspondence that has been received about PFAS, which was received from the State of NH. B. Caron said the State has anything that we have. T. Letson said most of the information that we have came in from the State and anything we've done for testing has been done by us and given to the State of NH. R. Charron said the records only need to be kept for 5-7 years, so the old stuff is gone. Letson recommended not getting rid of anything else going forward. R. Charron said the State of NH is trying to go beyond EPA. Our Governor has said this can't happen; it's going to be a big issue.

Water Sewer Rates – T. Letson said we don't have an updated report from RCAP yet. We've given the information to them, and they gave us some scenarios – 1) change the base rate only; change the volume metric rate; 3) or add them together. Scenarios 1 and 2 didn't work, 3 would. We asked them to redo it and get it back to us soon. The rate increase should be announced now, T. Letson recommended putting something in the next water bills regarding an increase. J. Tierney said we don't know what the numbers will be; the demand fee and \$/thousand gallon rate will be going up starting in



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the 2nd quarter. It will be both Water and Sewer. M. Kennett will get with T. Letson to work on a notice.

Jack Bernard asked why are the rates going up? J. Tierney said the rates are going up now because the RCAP report came out and said they should be up to make the Water Dept. solvent. They will probably increase again in 2027 when the bond issue hits. J. Bernard commented the Water Dept is not solvent now? T. Letson said the Water Dept has been losing money for quite a while and so is the Sewer Dept. J. Bernard said the problem with conserving, the rates go up more. T. Letson said according to RCAP the trend is that when the rates go up people conserve and then in approx. 2 quarters they go back to normal usage.

M. Kennett asked if there is any idea how much they will go up. J. Tierney said the scenarios are starting the demand rate at \$40.00 instead of \$20.00 – residential; commercial and industrial will go up as well. We don't know when the numbers will be ready, J. Tierney thinks it was \$40, \$45 and \$50. The notice should go out with the water bills ending the 1st quarter (next week). The M. Kennett said we need to put out good information. J. Tierney said the worst case could be \$50.00 base fee and \$10/thousand gal for water. They are also looking at the Sewer. The volumetric scenarios for water were \$7, \$8, and \$10.

J. Bernard said at the Town Meeting we voted on an amount for the Water Dept and Sewer Dept. J. Tierney said those #'s were their expenses and not tax money coming in. J. Tierney reviewed the scenarios we were given – the 1st was \$40.00 base, no change in usage, which wasn't enough. It was \$40,000 short. Next – keep base rate the same and change the usage rate; still short \$60,000; next both amounts were increase, which put it approx. \$25,000 - \$30,000 over the budget. We also asked them to look at the Bond payment of approx. \$220,000 per year for Water / Sewer, which would come in approx. 2027.

R. Irving asked if you are saying the increase was taken into consideration your depreciation and debt service? The board nodded yes.

Amanda Anderson asked if there are any grants. J. Tierney said we have grant applications in; it won't be on all the tax payers, just the users. R. Irving said even if you apply for grants, it's reduced from Rural Development grant portion. Has Rural Development agreed to lock in that grant? T. Letson said Rural Development understands I am applying for grants which could reduce the total package we have. It was a 25% grant, 75% loan, it will stay at that percentage. They are offering us approx. \$7,000,000, if she can pull in \$2,000,000 from somewhere else it will reduce the \$7,000,000 to \$5,000,000 and it will stay at the 25% grant, 75% loan.

- g. **Other Business:** T. Letson reminded the Board that she will be out of the office for the next couple of days.

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Amusement License Renewal – American Legion
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0



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- b. "Housekeeping" Abatement – PSNH DBA Eversource Energy –
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0
- c. Forest Stewardship Plan – Map 214, Lot 033 – 99 acres – Plan has been in place, needs to be updated.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0
- d. Solar Exemption Application – Map 230, Lot 007 – The exemption is up to \$10,000, depending on the system.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0
- e. Spouse All Veteran's Tax Credit Applications (2) – Map 104, Lot 121, Map 225, Lot 014
Motion to approve both applications by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

T. Letson has reached out to DRA 2 times, they are still looking into it. J. Weagle said the DRA approved it and then said there was something wrong with it. N. Merrow said the range is posted \$51.00 - \$750.00 – T. Letson reached out to DRA shortly after the Town Meeting. There is an issue possibly with the wording of the warrant, which is what we are still waiting to hear.

- f. Veteran All Veteran's Tax Credit Applications (4) –
Map 214, Lot 009
Map 214, Lot 020
Map 107, Lot 089
Map 104, Lot 011

Motion to approve all 4 applications by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

K. Frechette asked if they need to be renewed; J. Weagle said only if it transfers to the spouse. J. Tierney said they still need to be reviewed if any changes are made. T. Letson said she believes the applicant needs to reside in the house to qualify.

a. **Building Permit Applications (9) –**

Map 222, Lot 001 - Charles McMann
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Map 212, Lot 002 – Alex & Denise Johnston
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Map 104, Lot 266 – Robert Chapman
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Ryan Shannon – asked what building this is? It's the Train Station.

Map 104, Lot 204 – Marc & Diane Bessette
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0



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Map 107, Lot 100-01 – Steven Tate and Fernando Fernandes (St. Marks Vestry) – The owner is still St. Paul’s, T. Letson asked if the church has signed off. T. Charron said that pastor Tim Brooks stopped in, and it is in Steven Tate’s name but hasn’t been updated on the deed. R. Irving said it’s not legal until the deed is updated.

Motion to approve pending approval from Tim Brooks by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Al Rossetto will check into it tomorrow. T. Letson said it could be recorded and our records haven’t been updated.

Map 104, Lot 032 – Roaring Brook Farm

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Map 221, Lot 001 – Michael Humphrey, Riverside Speedway

Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Map 214, Lot 020 – Cody & Jessica Braase – Al Rossetto reviewed and signed.

Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

Map 220, Lot 013 – William Caron

Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, 2 in Favor, 1 Abstained.

Norm Cotter asked how long the permits are good for. B. Caron said 2 years. K. Frechette said it’s good for a year but must be renewed in March with no charge.

8. Public Comment:

- a. N. Merrow – Reminded there will be an open house at the Gathering Place on April 5, 2023, from 10:30 – 12:30. Stop in and see how St. Marks has been changed to a Senior Center. The building will be open for other community events. T. Letson gave kudos to the committee that put it together.
- b. T. Charron commented on the Fidium Fiber website. It didn’t recognize Groveton, but it did when she searched for Northumberland. J. Tierney said it took Groveton with a street address.
- c. R. Shannon asked where the church is that’s been converted to a Senior Center. It is across from the library – St. Marks. At the corner of Church St. and Summer St.
- d. J. Monahan said he’s heard rumors; did the Groveton PD sign a contract with Stark for police coverage? The Board said No.
- e. Norm Cotter asked about the trash that was mentioned a couple weeks ago. Liz Ball sent a letter to the owner of the building. Chief Pelletier said he spoke with the owner, and he will speak with the tenants.
- f. R. Shannon said he read the minutes from the last meeting; they were very detailed and good. He thanked Mrs. St Cyr for doing a good job.

9. Announcements: Planning Board meeting – Wednesday April 5, 2023



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10. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, April 17, 2023

11. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II (a) (c) (e)):

Motion to go into Non-Public session by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

Into Non-Public at 7:39 pm

Present: J Tierney, J. Weagle, B. Caron, T. Letson, M. Kennett,
R. St. Cyr- Select Board Minute Taker

Motion to adjourn the Non-Public Session by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public Session at 9:10 pm

Into Regular session at 9:10 pm

Motion to "Seal" the Non-Public minutes for section c until resolved by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

Motion to "Seal" the Non-Public minutes for section d until resolved by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

Motion to "Seal" the Non-Public minutes for section f until resolved by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

No other business was discussed during the regular session.

12. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by: J. Tierney, 2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr, Select Board Minute Taker.



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*To be placed on the agenda contact the Office of Selectmen by noon on the Friday preceding posted meeting

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members
on _____

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X

Jim Tierney
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

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