



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

Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Select Board Members Present: Bill Caron, Keith Bronson (Chair), James Tierney
Others Present: Tammy Letson, Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, Joshua Philips, Sean Durkin, Larry Meservey, Melissa Dano, Gloria Brisson-Covell, Thomas Covell, Doug Dano, Stephanie Humphrey, Michael Humphrey, Pat Connary, E Harlan Connary, Pat Gorton, Tom Gorton, Molly Stetson, Elizabeth Ball, Judy Fox, Tyler Morey, Courtney Mclain, Ryan Shannon, Niccole Vike

1. **Chairman opens the meeting:** Keith opens the meeting.
2. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Jim makes motion to accept the minutes as written, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Norm asks if the meeting is being recorded.

Bill says yes, just like the last meeting and with 2 recorders.

3. **Department Head Business:** Ambulance and Police Depts.

Jim Gibson not available for Ambulance.

Chief Pelletier reports: 418 calls for service, 145 car stops, 6 crash investigations, opened 10 new investigations and made 13 arrests.

Bill asks Chief Pelletier how many arrests were for drugs.

Chief answers at least 2, a couple domestics and some other things.

Tammy: will forward Jim's report after I receive it.

4. **Matters from the public:**

- a. Tom Covell – Cemetery Matters – Keith reads Tom's resignation letter, and the Selectmen thank him for his many years of service.

Tammy: It is up to the Select Board to appoint a replacement for Tom's 2-year position.

Bill asks if it should be advertised.

Ryan asks what the qualifications are.

Jim says it depends on what you want to do.

- b. Joshua Phillips, Mike Humphrey, and Larry Merservey Sr. – North Country ATV would like to propose opening Brown and Craggy Roads for ATF use to have access to the racetrack.

Discussion on how spectators would like to attend the off-road park, eat and shop. Suggested use of snowmobile path on DOT right of way, will need State permission. A lower speed should be posted.

Chief Pelletier speaks about using Berlin as a model and trying it for a year. Continuation will depend on people's behavior.

More discussion on whether the residents along the trail will be receptive, need to speak to them to find out. This will be seasonal and not year-round, curfew to be designated.

The Select Board and Chief Pelletier not opposed but need input from residents.

5. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Probate matter – Tammy reports that there is an additional fee to take the next step in pursuing and may be more fees after this. Should we continue with this or let it go?

Jim: let's not waste more money on this, let's let this go.

- b. Supervisor stipends – Tammy has been approached by 2 department heads asking if there should be an offer to the next in line of a stipend when they cover the department head's position when department heads are on vacation.

Jim asks if there is an amount in mind.

Tammy: suggested offer \$50/week stipend.

Jim: Did department heads offer to give up their stipend?

Tammy: they did not. They want this for this month as the 2 heads are on vacation.

Jim: no, because of our unknown budget.

Courtney: Is this limited to 1 or 2 people? It should be open to all.

Tammy: currently no department head gets a stipend.

Jim: we will look at this after Town meeting.

- c. Other

Tammy reports that the water usage has been high and that 2 major water leaks were found in vacant houses.

Discussion on whether the owner pays the overage. That most people who are going away for the winter ask for the water to be shut off, you can't shut off the water without the owner's permission.

Ryan asks if they can get an abatement.

Tammy: can ask for the bill to be reduced (abatement), it is up to the Select Board whether they will approve or not. Thankfully the water break was on the right side of the meter and the Town knows how much was lost.

Liz: Today's leak was not sent a letter, it is not usually a problem, the other was sent but returned.

Nicole: can anyone contact the owner by phone instead of mail? Mail takes too long.

Tammy: not sure if we have the phone numbers of residents.

Discussion on whether there is another way to contact residents other than mail, and whether it is the responsibility of the Town to do so. Also discussed on whether the home was vacant or not.

Liz: no one has lived there for months.

Tammy: the other house seems vacant as there is ice on the windows.

Courtney: live there full-time, house is in disrepair, owe lots of taxes, in his 80's. Owner came in and asked for the water to be shut off after he discovered the leak.

Ryan asks if someone can help, can contact information of resident be given out?

Tammy brings up that it may be a liability for the Town.

Concern for the resident expressed, good to help neighbor but need to respect their privacy.

6. Other Business: None

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Solar Energy Exemption Application – 1210 Lost Nation Rd. Map 225, Lot 015-01

Continued from the last meeting. There is a solar panel on the roof. Jim makes motion to sign, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Al says he did not know to look at the panel because he was not aware the project was finished. No feedback as to when it was finished.

Sean: no contractor will schedule an inspection if he does not have to.

8. Announcements:

- a. Planning Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – 6 pm
- b. Conservation Commission Meeting Notice – Thursday, March 23, 2023, 7 pm – 19 Main St.

9. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 – 6 pm

10. Al, Chair of the Planning Board, informs everyone that the Planning Board is working on the Master Plan survey and if anyone is interested to please attend.

11. Norm: went to the school budget and when exiting out the cafeteria on the backside of the school it was pitch black.

Bill: if a streetlight take the pole number and give to Becky.

Jim: or if on the school building filed a complaint with the school.

12. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II (c)): Jim makes a motion to go into non-public at 6:52pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0. Roll call vote to go into non-public.

- a. Personnel Matters
- b. Personnel Matter

Jim makes motion to come out of non-public at 7:37pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-

Jim makes motion to seal the first section of non-public until the matter is resolved. Bill seconds the motion to seal the first section of non-public until the matter is resolved, all in favor, 3-0. Roll call vote.

13. Adjournment: Jim makes motion to adjourn at 7:39pm, Bill seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan

Northumberland Select Board Minute Taker

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