



Town of
Northumberland
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Date: Monday, June 19th, 2023
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board Members Present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle, Bill Caron – by phone
Others Present: Al Rossetto, Sean Durkin, William Daisey, Peter Pelletier, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Judy Fox, Jeff St. Cyr, Jerry Monahan, Ryan Shannon, Amanda Anderson, Kathy Frechette, Melinda Kennett, Eric Brow, Andre Brasseur, Rebecca St. Cyr – Minute Taker

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

J. Tierney opened the meeting at 6:01 pm

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

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

3. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police Depts.

Ambulance – EMS Chiefs Report – 06/19/2023

1. 2023 as of this printing, we have had 195 calls to date. (print out included).
2. 2022 at this time, we were at 236 calls. (Print out included).
3. Comstar report as of 06/09/2023: \$73,429.50 (Print out included).
4. All ambulances are at par and up to date on maintenance.
5. We are currently attending meetings and preparing response plans for a couple of large events that will be affecting our area and coverage areas this year and early next year.
6. Summer vacations are starting so staffing will start becoming an issue.

Discussion:

R. Shannon asked when the Chief would be here, he has a lot of questions. It seems they are not bringing in much revenue. We are spending \$300,000 and they are bringing in \$140,000 and spending \$440,000. Why can't someone from the Ambulance come to represent him and answer some of these questions. J. Tierney said we can ask Jim for the next meeting on July 17th. To save money, Shannon said Lancaster would take on the whole thing, we could

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dissolve the ambulance. Shannon said he checked into it, and they would take it all on for \$100,000/year. J. Tierney said we checked into as well, and that's not the number we have received, he wasn't sure what the exact number was, but it was a lot higher. It came from the Town Manager; Jim was told that they are not interested. S. Durkin asked about the cost; Tierney said the price is higher than what Ryan said. They don't want to take us on. J. Weagle said that Lancaster makes all their money in transfers. Their people and transfers would come first.

S. Durkin said he doesn't buy Weagle's comment, if there was an emergency he feels they would come instead of doing a transport first. J. Monahan asked about the numbers; J. Tierney reviewed, they said they wouldn't take us on; they were not interested.

A. Anderson said if it's costing more than what they bring in why don't we do more transfers. J. Tierney said we need to have a paramedic and a place for them to stay. We have one that comes in for 2 – 24 hr. shifts who stays with Sandy. Anderson asked if it makes sense to rent an apartment for them, J. Weagle said in past years we did look at that, basically the Board didn't want to do it. Now, most Paramedics are already established, and other agencies would have to go down for us to do it. J. Tierney said the new building that was proposed and turned down at Town meeting was to have a bedroom.

S. Durkin asked about 45th Parallel; J. Tierney doesn't think they gave us a cost and reviewed a contract issue. Sean asked how many towns does the Groveton Ambulance service? J. Weagle listed – Stark, No. Stratford, Bloomfield, Maidstone and maybe Brunswick. Sean asked if they pay an annual fee for the services. J. Weagle discussed; if we go pick up one of their residents, they are charged accordingly. The Town Administrator and Jim Gibson write the contracts. J. Tierney said this is the first year that we've pushed getting them up to the going rate. No. Stratford will go up to \$49,000 for the contract. A. Anderson asked if it's \$49,000 for us to cover them, why aren't we charging them what it would cost for Lancaster to cover us. Sean asked why it isn't divided up equally; J. Tierney said it's based on the population and the number of service calls. No. Stratford will be going up \$11,000 per year over the next several years to get them up to \$49,000.

J. Weagle further discussed what the insurance companies pay.

A. Anderson commented if you were paying me to do a job and it's costing more, that job wouldn't be there. J. Tierney said the last time the question of terminating our ambulance service was asked at Town Meeting – the answer from the taxpayers was a resounding no. People want an Ambulance service that's local. Anderson discussed a medical issue with her son that the PD responded to. Tierney discussed the response times.

J. Monahan – did you say all the towns are increasing this year? J. Tierney discussed – No. Stratford will be going up to \$49,000. We gave them a break and by 2025 it will be up to \$49,000 for them.

Al Rossetto – he appreciates that the Board of Selectmen is providing citizens and other Towns a break. With the re-evaluations coming up, he would petition the Board to give the tax payers in Town a break rather than citizens in other towns. He further discussed water rates to Guildhall over the years. Now we are funding a break to people that don't support the Town. He asked if

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that generosity could be extended to the citizens of this Town. J. Tierney said he would be happy to but increases keep getting approved at Town Meeting. Al said you are giving a deal to another Town, don't you have a fiduciary commitment to do the best for the Town? J. Tierney said for this year the other towns have paid their contracts; it can be looked at for next year. Al was upset when he heard about this and further discussed.

Police Dept -

Since the last meeting on May 15; we answered 329 calls for service, 98 car stops, 6 arrests-2 were DWI, 2 were felony drugs and 2 included domestic violence.

Investigated 1 crash and opened 5 new investigations.

Officer James Dagesse graduated from the 192nd Police Academy last Friday, he was 6th in the class, which makes us proud. Through most of the 16 weeks he was #1. He will be doing some follow-up training with Officer Ball and Chief Pelletier and hope to have him solo status asap.

There is a Sobriety Checkpoint that's been advertised to be held soon in Lancaster. It's a cooperative effort between Colebrook, Northumberland, Lancaster and Gorham, State police are involved in this as well. 5 different departments will be participating in a common goal, it is a good example of interagency cooperation.

On social media or by word of mouth, you may have heard about the Rainbow Family of Light and Love. They come from around the country and hold their meetings on National Forest Land. This year they chose Kilkenny Loop. They have been known for very aggressive panhandling. Most are just into peace and love. Pelletier further discussed aggressive issues where they have destroyed a meat dept and produce dept. There are a lot of scary stories about them. He worries about teenagers that might join them and run off.

National Forest has moved a number of law enforcement in, Berlin PD will be helping as well. We are far enough away so we probably won't see much of them. He thinks they will take the easy route and go into Berlin more than coming this way. To be on the safe side, Pelletier said they will be stopping in at local shops to alert them. They live a very vagrant lifestyle. The peak will be July 4; but they are trickling in now. Once they are done, we should see an exodus.

Rainbow Family of Love and Light; last year they were in Colorado. J. Weagle said there is a faction of the group that are the trouble makers. To their credit, they have a crew that stays behind and cleans the area. A. Brasseur commented that their flyer shows July 1 – 7th.

R. Shannon asked about the Sobriety Checkpoint; is that covered by the grant. W. Daisey said yes. Anytime we talk about highway safety to include the use of a cruiser, the Office of Highway Safety pays 100% and zero by Groveton taxpayers.

P. Marshall was under the impression that we have 24/7 coverage. P. Pelletier answered that the Town voted for Part-time at the Town Meeting. Marshall said it was chaos after an accident on Saturday. Pelletier commented he has been

trying to get the PD back to full time; we are making progress and it's getting better. Marshall further discussed the traffic issues on that day.

A. Anderson gave kudos to the PD; it seems like we have more coverage now than we did.

Al Rossetto gave some feedback from Page Hill Rd. the ATV signs are gone and the ATV traffic is back. It's high-speed Baha style machines enjoying Glenns hard work of making the roads smooth. J. Monahan asked if they are allowed on Lost Nation Rd. The Board said no they are not. J. Tierney said Page hill isn't open either.

A. Anderson said at the last meeting we talked about parking for the restaurant; she received an email explaining why. It's still an issue for Megan. J. Tierney said Tammy sent out letters to other towns and they said if we figure it out please let them know. Anderson asked if there is any solution? J. Tierney said to enforce the parking time limit, a local community had to hire a person to walk around checking vehicles in time limited parking. Anderson discussed putting signs out. P. Pelletier said it can't be done and it's not practical. He spoke with Megan about the elderly; he has a family member that participated in a group that was coming to the restaurant. He discussed putting a handicap van assessable spot in front of the diner. The Board further discussed putting a handicapped sign up. Amanda mentioned that Lancaster has signs posted for their municipal parking areas. P. Pelletier said that would be a good idea. Jim Tierney said we can put up a sign on the lots, but the State requested a fee to put it on a State route.

Ryan – the other municipal parking by the Sign Post – there is a sign on the side of the building there. Sherry King in Concord takes care of the signs for the State. Where it's already posted for one, it should be posted in the other. Shannon said there are grants out there for Main Street – J. Weagle said our Main St isn't all ours, so we are not eligible. Discussed where the sign(s) could be put and the wording.

Motion to put a Municipal Parking sign on the old Eagle Hotel lot, add a sign to the telephone pole and add one handicapped parking space on Main St. near No. Country Family Restaurant (location to be determined) by: J. Weagle

B. Caron said the handicap spot would need to be on the same side at the restaurant. J. Tierney said the driveway doesn't belong to Megan so she can't block it. We would lose one parking spot.

2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Roll Call: J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes.

A. Anderson thanked the Board for finding a solution.

N. Cotter had a problem a while ago and went to see J. Weagle and B. Caron, he was told it had been taken care of. He would like to know what happened. J. Tierney asked Cotter to clarify what the issue was. Cotter said he saw a police officer's vehicle parked out here that wasn't registered; he went into the Town Office and got J. Weagle and B. Caron. They refused to go out to look at it.

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W. Daisey addressed N. Cotters issue; the vehicle was registered. It's nobody's business and the vehicle was registered on time. An argument ensued with the public in attendance and the issue was discussed further.

E. Brow had a question for the Chief, he is concerned about a high-speed car chase down Brooklyn St, which is a dead-end street with a lot of kids. What was the reason? There are a lot of people that live over there that are concerned. What if a kid ran out into the street.? There isn't an exit on the street. He just wants a little respect for the people in this Town that have kids. Yes, we need to get the bad guys off the street, but don't put lives in danger. P. Pelletier said he agrees, and it was unreasonable for the person being chased to be going that fast to get away. Brow said there isn't any justification for the cruiser to be going down the street that fast. B. Daisey said the lights and sirens were on.

Brow feels there are bigger factors to getting the bad guys. Argument ensued; Brow has a right to express his concerns; he's not belittling Off. Daisey and telling him not to arrest drunks. He's only asking for some common sense. He also wanted the Chief to be aware. Brow discussed unreasonable stops that are being made. B. Daisey addressed and also reviewed some of the paperwork that was confusing the matter.

J. Monahan further discussed the registration issue. P. Marshall asked why he didn't have the stickers on his vehicle? Daisey said no one came to him and asked that question, now it's no one's business. He's not excluded from the law if he gets stopped by State Police and gets a ticket – he deserves it. P. Pelletier discussed making MV stops that don't have their stickers on. Sometimes there are reasons why.

A. Amanda is concerned with the PD and Town Office not getting along and making that better.

R. Shannon – you are exactly right everyone did go against Off. Daisey and it was brought up at a meeting. It was like a witch hunt after that. He describes it as a Democratic smoke screen. There was investigations after investigations – that's what it seems like to the public. He asked isn't it illegal to not have them on the plate. As the Chief discussed, there are reasons.

Off. Daisey said he's not leaving this Town until he retires in approx. 4 years. He likes it here. Shannon reminded him that it's about getting along.

J. Tierney moved on to the next item.

4. Requested Agenda Matters:

- a. Discussion/Decision to fix up train at covered bridge – J. Weagle – The Groveton Beautification committee would like to get permission to paint the train and have a fundraiser for other improvements as well. K. Frechette asked if it will be painted the same as it is now? J. Weagle said yes and maybe put a seal on it. They are talking with a group that could come in and do other repairs.

Motion to allow the Beautification committee to raise funds through fund raising to pay for fixing up the train by: B. Caron

2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron – Yes

5. Town Administrator Business:

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- a. Highway Safety Grant discussion/approval – J. Tierney read as follows: NH Department of Safety has agreed to increase our equipment award for our FY2023 grant. This will allow the PD to purchase a new in-car and handheld radar units. Highway Safety will reimburse the Town 75% of this purchase. The Board made the following motion:

Motion to accept the amendment to our FY2023 Highway Safety Grant to include the purchase of up to \$4,525 for the purchase of an in-car and a lidar radar unit and to accept up to \$3,393 of reimbursement from the State by: J. Weagle
2nd by: B. Caron

Before approving, J. Tierney asked about lidar. P. Pelletier addressed, it's a speed measurement device.

All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

6. Other Business:

7. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application –
 - 1. Carl Voas 67 Hillside Ave – payment has been made.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

- b. Building Permit Applications (5)
 - 1. Tracy Morrill, Lost Nation Rd – added to a current building permit.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

 - 2. Steven P Smith, Brook Rd. - Joseph Cantin is the contractor, fee has been paid.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

 - 3. Fernandes, Fernando, 26 Preble St, - paid fee – Al Rossetto has signed.
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

 - 4. Real and Suzanne Groleau – fee paid
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

 - 5. Freedom Forever - Jessica Quintal – Craggy Rd. Fee paid
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

- c. Abatement – “Housekeeping” – \$100.25 - Map 229, Lot 033
Error when taxes were printed. \$20,940 – revised \$18,000
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

- d. Solar Exemption Application – 641 Lost Nation Rd. – Map 246, Lot 030
Tracy Morrill and Elizabeth Pearce –

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

- e. Release of Lien – Established by the Town pursuant to
Motion to approve by: J. Weagle, 2nd by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
Roll Call – J. Tierney – Yes; J. Weagle – Yes; B. Caron - Yes

8. Public Comment:

At the last meeting R. Shannon brought up a meeting held on 5/30. He requested a copy of the minutes and hasn't received them as requested. He researched and the Town is violating RSA 91-A:2, (b), which states we have a website where the public meetings are posted. It can't be violated. If it's posted in 2 public spots, it also needs to be on the website. This is the 7th time the Town has violated that RSA which he has brought up 7 times. We just went through a witch hunt with 2 employees and now there is a 3rd. All because someone is bored. Shannon feels the bull needs to stop. Shannon said the Board is in charge, she doesn't run you guys. She is the Town Administrator (aka Bookkeeper) she is not a Town Manager. There are 2 different descriptions on the RSA – Town Manager and Town Administrator. The Town of Northumberland voted the Town Manager position out. The only way to get it back is by the people voting it back in.

J. Tierney corrected Shannon's statement and said the Town voted out the Town Manager "form of government". The difference between a Town Manager and Administrator is the Manager can fire an employee and a Town Administrator cannot. J. Tierney asked what RSA describes the Town Administrator position, he's looked and didn't find one for a Town Administrator. A. Anderson will send him the RSA number for Town Administrator.

Anderson wanted clarification of the 5/30 meeting, usually they are the first and 3rd Mondays. J. Tierney said it was a meeting that opened Public and went right into Non-Public. Where was it posted? It wasn't posted at the SAU – she wants to know what the meeting was about? Anderson referenced the RSA 91-A:2, (b). She asked what the meeting was about. J. Tierney said the minutes are sealed.

Anderson then asked about other sealed minutes and why aren't they resolved and opened. J. Weagle said we have minutes that go back to the 70's; because you can't unseal them if it will hurt the reputation of those involved. Ryan said technically the 5/30 meeting wasn't posted and that's a violation. Shannon further discussed RSA 91-A:7(b) for penalty, which goes to Supreme Court. He guessed he just needs to push that and pay the \$25.00 to go that route. He commented that it's like a kid touching a hot stove.

J. Weagle said he didn't know that he didn't get the minutes and if Shannon had contacted him he would have gotten them for him. Discussion ensued regarding posting public meetings and going into non-public meetings. J. Weagle said if the Board is talking to Legal we don't need to.

J. Monahan asked to see the roster for those that attended the 05/30 meeting. J. Tierney said he was there and J. Weagle, B. Caron, T. Letson. And that's it. Shannon said that's a quorum because the majority of the Selectmen were there, it has to be a public meeting, or the Board can get into trouble. If they go to the Town Office and are in the building together or next to each other – that's illegal. J. Tierney didn't agree with that and said it's only illegal if we discuss and come to conclusions on Town business. Shannon will research and review at the next meeting. Kathy Frechette knows that it was posted in the library and reposted it the next day when there was a time change. Every meeting has been posted as required; if you check you can see if from the door. It did show it was a Non-Public meeting. J. Weagle commented that Jo said it was received at the SAU office. Jerry said this meeting didn't go out on the email tree, why is that? J. Tierney said he's not ready to answer at this time.

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9. Announcements:

a. Town Office Operations and Transfer Station closed Tuesday, July 4th, 2023

Will open July 5th for normal business Hours. Transfer Station will open on July 7th with normal business hours.

10. Next Board Meeting Date: Note: Monday, July 10th, 2023

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

No Non-Public Session tonight.

12. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

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