



Town of  
Northumberland  
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**Town of Northumberland**

**Board of Selectmen**

**Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

**Date: Monday, March 6, 2023**

**Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square**

**Time: 6:00 P.M.**

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

**Others Present:** Tammy Letson, Samantha Young, Jack Bernard, Joshua Philips-NCATV, Norm Cotter, Stephen McMann, Courtney McLain, Robert Hart, Bryan Connary, Joseph (Roach) Kennett, Melinda Kennett, Molly Stetson, E Harlen Connary, Elizabeth Ball, Glenn Cassady, Randy Potter, Tom Gorton, Pat Gorton, Ryan Shannon, Judy Fox, Kathy Frechette, William Everleth, Reggie Charron, Terri Charron, Al Rossetto, Larry Meservey, William Daisy, Peter Pelletier, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

**1. Chairman opens the meeting:**

Keith Bronson, Chairman opened the meeting at 6:00 PM

**2. Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion to accept the 02/21/23 Meeting Minutes by: Jim Tierney  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: William Caron, All in Favor 3-0

**3. Department Head Business:** Highway and Water/Sewer Dept.

Glenn Cassidy – same as last month, maintaining as the storms come in. Glenn said the crew did an outstanding job while he was out on vacation. While Reggie was on vacation there was a sewer issue they had to handle. The help did a tremendous job. We have had minimal repairs, but went through 3 loads of salt.

Ryan Shannon asked if it's normal to have the supervisors and/or others taking a vacation in the middle of winter. Glenn said there isn't anything in the policy that says we can't.

Jack Bernard asked how many employees are on the crew – Glenn – 3 Full time and Brian helps sometimes. The W/S crew will help when we need them.

Ryan Shannon asked how many can drive the plow trucks – Glenn said there are 2 that currently do, and 3 others that have a CDL to drive, but don't have experience in the big truck.

Reggie Charron – W/S Superintendent – He was out most of February and came back last week. We've had some water issues. A major fire line broke at the old Dollar Tree. Another resident on Pike St. that passed away, we couldn't get in touch with anyone and couldn't get in. We cannot go into a property w/o permission. On Pike St. – it folded a 6 ft radiator in half. There are people that are leaving their properties. We are trying to do what we can to protect properties with the resources we have.

Currently we are at a high usage of over 277,000 gal/per day. In December we were at 200,000 gal/day. In September we were using 160,000 gal/day. There has been 1 major break, water lines bursting in the holes, meters busting out, etc. At one time we were using over 330,000 gals. Had to replace over 4 water meters due to this. We've done a lot of due diligence.

Lost Nation – a hose bit froze up and broke. Consumption has been 4,100/day and jumped to over 9,500 gal with the break. It was found within 4-5 days, which saved a lot. Back to normal – 2,800 gal/per day now.

Sewer – we had plug up on Morse St., a sewer manhole was paved over; the line was plugged in a home and when it released it went into the line and backed up. One of the storm drains is tied into the line. The crew figured out the issue and took care of it. The next thing – is the frost and where we will be in the next few weeks.

Norm Cotter – while Reggie was on vacation, he heard someone wanted their water shut off and no one went down to shut off. Reggie said we would have shut off if asked. He discussed an emergency call and how it was handled. We do charge for emergency calls.

Jack Bernard – Reggie oversees W/S, does his salary come out of the W/S budget? Yes, it does, and Keith Knapp is also in that department. Tammy Letson discussed the Dept and adding another person. Jack noted that there is an Increase in both lines of \$15,000. Reggie commented there Isn't anyone licensed to cover for him when out on vacation or illness.

Jack Bernard - commented all the salaries have gone up 15 – 20%, which he feels is absurd. Discussion ensued regarding the budget lines for salaries. Bill Caron and Tammy addressed.

Kathy Frechette asked about the water usage is it getting back to normal – Reggie said they are trying to keep up with it. Kathy discussed a property where the homeowner died, Tom Covell has been plowing; so it looks like someone is there, but there isn't. Reggie further discussed vacant property and the issues. No one wants to receive letters that are sent – they are returned in the mail.

Ryan Shannon – since we can't go into a property; don't we have access to the shutoff's? Reggie said we do but can't shut off the water without a property owners' permission. We need proof there is an issue.

#### **4. Matters from the public:**

- a. Cemetery Trustees – Discussion of Cemetery Sexton  
Terri Charron – Glenn and Terri are the only 2 Cemetery Trustee's, we are looking for another; there was an ad in the paper. Tom Covell is retiring after 44 years of being Sexton, if anyone is interested, please contact Glenn or Terri. If you know anyone that knows how to dig graves and is qualified; let them know we are looking. Jack B – Tom has a ton of maps of the cemetery, Terri said we will be getting them from him.
- b. Courtney McLain – Discussion of elected officials and time compensation for work related attendance at business meetings.

She attended a Non-Public session and was unclear why she didn't get paid since it was approved by her supervisor. Keith said you don't get paid when you come to the meeting voluntarily. Courtney asked each of the Board members if they agreed that it wasn't work related. Individually, each of them agreed that it wasn't work related.

Courtney asked why it wasn't work related? Bill Caron said the minutes were sealed from her matter, so they are not able to discuss in public. Courtney would need to have it changed from sealed to un-sealed and discuss in public. To get resolved she feels she would be forced to discuss in Public. She hasn't received any discussion (in over 2 weeks) from anyone about her complaint, which she considers serious.

Courtney asked did anyone tell me that it's under investigation. Did anyone give me a follow up? Did anyone tell me that I wasn't getting paid for the meeting? Jim Tierney said someone should have told you. Courtney said no one told her, however she received an email today.

Tammy discussed with her (Courtney's) supervisor and left it with her that if there are any questions Courtney could come up to see her. Tammy thought she was working the next day. Courtney didn't come to see her.

Tammy agreed that she has Courtney's phone # and email.

Courtney commented at the last meeting we paid 3 police officers to be at the meeting. Today there are 2, Bill Caron noted they are on duty and further discussed.

Bill further discussed employees coming to meetings and getting paid or not.

Ryan Shannon – asked for clarification. Is the administrator supposed to go to Courtney or is the Select Board supposed to. Keith said the Administrator deals with finance; Ryan asked who does get paid to attend these meetings. The Dept heads – the Board discussed.

Norm Cotter – commented there is a police officer here along with the Chief, why does he need to come in here instead of being out on the streets. Bill Caron further discussed. Norm feels we shouldn't have to pay 2 officers when the Chief is at the meeting.

Keith asked if there were any other questions or discussion, there was none.

- c. Joshua Phillips, Mike Humphrey, and Larry Meservey Sr. – Follow up from 2/21/23 business meeting regarding ATV trail proposal.

Joshua and Larry are back to further discuss the opening of Brown & Craggy RD. The DOT paperwork takes approx. 2-3 months. He reached out to the State today, once they receive a decision from the Town then they can start the DOT paperwork.

Tammy asked if the residents were talked to; the Board, Joshua and Larry had not talked with anyone.

Terri asked what trail they would be using.

Joshua said they will be using Mom's trail and will try to get the DOT right-a-way for the snowmachine trail to Brown Rd. They will only open Brown Road from there to Craggy Rd.

Terri – asked if the trail would be marked? Last year the ATVs were on their lawn until signs were put up. Larry – commented that the signs should go up in the spring. Josh mentioned there will be posting ATV speed limit signs as well.

Bill Everleth – 199 Brown Rd resident; he vigorously says that we should not allow the ATVs to go down the road. He has enough problems with the race track with the high speed corners after dark, with everything from motorcycles to cars. ATVs will be hard to manage. He prefers they find an off -road trail – the road is no place for wheelers. There are some that will ruin it for everyone.

Joshua – at the last meeting the Chief said they will patrol the road. They want to start holding events to help the economy. We talked about trying it for a year.

Bill Everleth –he's gone to the track in the past to have them ask their participants to slow down – it hasn't happened. In 8 years, he has not seen a car stopped on that road. It's very difficult to manage. The road provides the space where they can throttle up and go.

Larry – we used Berlin Gorham as an example – it's had great success.

Bill Everleth understands that Berlin / Gorham have both had problems; they have had some ongoing battles over there that's been hard to manage. In his opinion, we are not comparing apples to apples. Bill further discussed.

Mike Simino – lives on Craggy Rd. He wasn't at the last meeting, but he is definitely against it. We basically have a full-on campground down there, there's the dirt Track, the race track and now the winter. There's a lot of traffic. The speed limit isn't going to work; winter or summer, it's hard to police. The ATVs are going to be hard to manage. He doesn't think it's a good idea. We used to be a mill town; it's hard to swallow the tourist idea and the money it will bring in. We still have some pride.

Josh – this Town has no economy; people are leaving their houses left and right. He owns the Trailside Lodge in No. Stratford.

Mike Simino – has worked at the Federal Prison since 2012. He hears complaints from Berlin residents regarding taxes.

Ryan Shannon – he is totally for it; we are an old mill town with a big spending habit. He feels it will help the economy; he feels the police do a great job at the track and they do pull people over. It's a great opportunity for the Town to help the schools, restaurants, etc. There will be some bad apples, but he feels that we need to do this.

Jim Tierney asked who owns the land behind Min and Roach – MOM's does. He asked if there was any dry land back there. Larry believes there is enough dry land to get the trail to the land fill area. It's too wet from there to Riverside. Tammy said she reached out the DES; we can't put a trail on top of the landfill; there might be a slim chance to get approval along the fence.

Bill Everleth – he understands where this is coming from, he is one from the "old mill". He asked what the \$ value of tourism is to Groveton? We can't compare it to Berlin / Gorham. He would like to understand the \$ value.

Larry – feels we must look at the big picture. Look at the property that has been sold as a second property, look at those that have come and tried snowmachining and ATVs – they have to stay and eat somewhere. It's just one more thing that would contribute. It's not just those that are using the track, but also the spectators. If it wasn't for Route 3 and the drive by traffic on the weekend, Mom's couldn't exist, 80% of their business is from those passing by, not the locals. They are not just spending at MOM's.

Mike Simino commented that it sounds like it will be an uphill battle for the residents on Brown and Craggy Rd. He wants a point of contact to vent and address issues as they come up if the ATV access is approved. He's dealt with Ted Burns in the past. Joshua said Ted Burns was the only contact; but he is working hard and is willing to give out his personal business card. Larry said he is also available.

Bob Hart asked who is making the decision on this – the Select Board? He feels that it should be brought up at the Town Meeting. Jim Tierney said it would be non-binding, but we can see how the residents that attend feel about it. Jim asked if they could hold off until after the meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Bryan Connary urged the Board to consider what the residents on the Brown Rd and Craggy Rd want.

Roach commented that there is a piece of property behind Danny Guay that possibly could be sold and become an off-road area. Tim O'Neill from Dalton is interested in purchasing the property for a rally course. Joshua said that's just another opportunity to help the local business.

Randy Potter lives at 28 Craggy Rd. and agrees with Bill Everleth. The track has done nothing to slow the people down. The PD has stopped people however, he feels the ATVs belong in the woods and not on the road. He feels it needs to go to the people.

Larry – it would be a connector trail to the track only, it's not a riding trail. Joshua said that's why they are trying to help to bring more people to events. They want to drive to events and not have to trailer their machines.

Courtney noted that during the Town Meeting, the discussion would be other business and the Selectmen still make the final decision. She understands that it affects those residents – it's still a Town decision.

Bryan Connary – asked why isn't Mike Humphrey here tonight? Joshua said he had family commitments and couldn't be here.

Ryan Shannon asked the Board what the intent of discussing at Town Meeting would be? Jim Tierney said it would be to find what the town people would like to see.

Larry Meservey – The Board has previously said they would try it for a year. If after a year, it's a mess we don't want to be part of it either. It's got to be a success for everyone.

Bob Hart said there is a section of land down by the lagoons owned by Barry Craggy. Tammy said this has been discussed with the owners and the answer is no to that option.

Bob Hart – commented that every Sunday morning there are a couple of ladies that p/u trash on the Brown Rd.– Bill Everleth noted there is a lot of trash on the roadside. Joshua said we could send out trail patrol to clean up after events. Bill Everleth – it's not just from the track it's the traffic on the road in general.

Randy Potter said the traffic into the track used to be just Saturday night – now it's constant and year-round.

Ryan Shannon said he lives on Route 3 and picks up trash, we choose to buy property where we do and should expect it. Bill Everleth noted that when Joey had the track, he would take care of it – now there is a lot more traffic and a free for all. It's not the same.

Larry Meservey – commented that 20 years ago he moved to an area with a small airport; then they built other homes – we need to appreciate the fact that the track is growing. Keith Bronson lived on the road and there was always traffic on the Craggy Road.

Jim Tierney commented that if the trail is approved it's open for the season.

Steve McMann said he hopes the Board takes a good look before doing anything.

Bill Caron lives at the north end of Brown Rd. In front of his house, it's the noise of the traffic heading to the track. There will probably be more noise from the trucks and haulers than the ATVs.

Bryan Connary asked if the track is paying for the extra police coverage if the ATVs are allowed? He has noticed there are 2 officers in the cruiser - Bill Caron said there is an officer in training.

- d. Samantha Young asked the Board if when making plans for the budget every year, do you talk to the School Board and/or Superintendent to consider what they are proposing, does the Board collaborate with the School Board?

Jim Tierney – we haven't in the past. When doing the Master Plan in the past, we've asked the School and the Precinct to come and they didn't show up. It hasn't worked out well in the past. Sam commented on the benefit the Town has that the School doesn't – the Town has an excess fund balance of (\$2.1 million); the School doesn't have that.

Jim explained the school gets 100% of their tax money; the precinct gets 100%; the County gets 100%. If we don't collect, that's why we need the fund balance. We don't know what will be collected. The RSA says that we need to have the Highway and W/S.

Samantha feels there needs to be more communication; the School is the one that gets the bad rap on the tax rate. There is a lack of understanding between the School and Select Board and also in the community regarding how all this works. She is new to the School Board and would like to see us working together and doing what's best for the School and the Town.

Jim said the Planning Board is currently working on the Master Plan; if the School Board would like to send a representative to the next Planning Board meeting, they're welcome. Sam will volunteer to attend. The precinct can be included as well. Al Rossetto said the Planning Board meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month. Next meeting is April 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

Al asked if she was at the School budget meeting and noted how the School Board treated the public. Sam recognized there was a division between the Board and the public. She doesn't feel that anything got resolved. Al said it's been since 2014 when the Master Plan was updated. We are working on a survey for input from the public and hope to have it available on voting day, at the Town Meeting, at the library and Town Office. We need the input, the Master Plan is important for the Town for viability, for growth, grants, etc.

Bill Everleth noted at that meeting, there are some new people on the School Board; we are working at being a better Board.

Jack Bernard commented that at School Board and Select Board meetings, please don't go into Non-Public session in the middle of the meetings. The people leave and don't come back in for the rest of the regular session.

Roach asked in years past wasn't a Select Board member assigned to attend the School Board meetings. Jim Tierney said there hasn't been anyone on the Select Board assigned to attend the School Board meetings. We are asking them to come to the Master Plan meetings; we are separate entities and further discussed. Courtney McLain noted that Jim Weagle was on both Boards, however he was elected.

Ryan Shannon asked if it would be a wise decision to start having a rep at the meetings, so that we can work together. Jim Tierney is ok with that.

## **5. Town Administrator Business:**

### **a. Discussion/decision of North Country Council Broad Band Committee Member**

Tammy – we received a letter regarding a large amount of money (\$40,000,000) being granted for broadband. There is a committee in Coos for broadband, currently the Town of Northumberland isn't represented on the committee. We had a member, but they have stepped back. She recommended to the Select Board that a member be assigned.

Jim said he believes there are 380 locations they are trying to get broadband too.

Jack Bernard commented – all these programs that come in doesn't go to all the tax-payers. They won't come up to his residence because of where he is on Lost Nation Rd. Tammy said that's what the committee is for. Jim said the \$40,000,000 is for the ones that are out of town.

### **b. Min reached out to Tammy regarding Board members who will be available to be here for the elections on March 14. Jim Tierney will be here, Bill Caron will also be available.**

### **c. Received a press release from PD re: an arrest recently made. Alleged to have drugs with intent to sell. Kudos to the officer that made the arrest – the street value was approx. \$10,000.**

### **d. Other public discussion:**

Jack had a question on the budget; there is \$81,674.00 under the Ambulance for radios. Is it a typo? Tammy said this was approved at the Town Meeting on the 2021 Warrant. Approx. 75% of

it was covered by grants. They are astronomical in price. They are dual band radios that allow state to state transmission. Tammy Letson further discussed.

Norm Cotter – asked about the rubbish between the NCFR and apartment building on the left. It's been there for a while. Liz can reach out the company that owns the building, Courtney asked isn't there an ordinance for trash? The Board is just hearing about it. Jim Tierney asked Chief Pelletier if he could check on this and take care of it. Chief Pelletier said he would.

## **6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:**

- a. Yield Tax Warrant - #22-347-04T – Map 209 Lot 001 - \$219.55  
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
- b. Yield Tax Warrant - #22-347-03T – Map 216, Lot 003 - \$2,002.21  
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
- c. Non-Resident Solid Waste Permit Application (2) – For 23-24 permit year – 24 Tetu Rd  
Steve & Susan Doucette, non-residential, fee paid.  
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

## **7. Announcements:**

- a. Cemetery Trustee Vacancy - Kathy Frechette asked what the requirements are. Jim commented the sexton/grave digger does the most. Generally, the sexton does the lot sales. To date we don't have a sexton. Glenn said for now, we divided the positions to oversee the plotting; the sales will be done through the Town office; we will identify where to dig and place the headstones. This is an elected position there is no prior knowledge needed.  
  
Ryan Shannon asked if one of the qualifications is that they have a backhoe? No, not for a trustee. He asked if the Town is responsible for digging a grave, Glenn thought yes.
- b. Reminder of upcoming elections/town meeting – Voting Day, Tuesday - March 14, 2023, 11-7; Town Meeting, Saturday - March 18, 2023 – School - 9:00 am; Town – 10:00 or after the School; Precinct – 11:00 am or after the Town.
- c. Al Rossetto said the Planning Board is asking the Select Board to approve the printing of the Master Plan Survey forms. It should be less than \$50.00. Tammy said it would be done at the Town Office – it's a net cost with Town supplies.  
Motion to approve by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0
- d. Jack Bernard – Town Ordinance's – what is the ordinance for a junk yard? The business coming into town is an eye sore, there are a lot of junk cars on the lot. Bill Caron, if speaking of Chris Caron; he is not a junkyard. He has a license to sell cars, he is a towing company and when towing for banks and/or insurance companies he's required to hold them so long. J. Tierney said his business is regulated by the State statute.

Ryan Shannon commented that Groveton doesn't have many businesses – he hears a lot of hounding the businesses; we need to cherish the ones we have; they are paying taxes and we need to take that into consideration.

## **8. Next Board Meeting Date:** Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm

## **9. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II (d)):**

Motion to go into Non-Public Session by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0  
Rollcall vote – Jim Tierney-yes, Bill Caron-yes, Keith Bronson-yes  
Into Non-Public Session at 8:06 pm

Present: Jim Tierney, Bill Caron, Keith Bronson  
Others: Tammy Letson, Melinda Kennett (Via phone), Rebecca St Cyr, Minute Taker

Motion to come out of Non-Public session by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Out of Non-Public session at 8:44 pm.

Into Regular session at 8:44 pm.

Motion to seal "Section d" of the Non-Public session until the matter is resolved by: J. Tierney  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Rollcall vote – Jim Tierney-yes, Bill Caron-yes, Keith Bronson-yes

No further business was discussed.

**10. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: B. Caron, All in Favor 3-0

Regular meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Next meeting is March 20, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St Cyr  
Northumberland Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on \_\_\_\_\_

X  
Keith Bronson  
Northumberland Select Board Chair

X  
William Caron  
Northumberland Select Board Member

X  
Jim Tierney  
Northumberland Select Board Member

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