



Town of
Northumberland
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Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda*
Date: Monday, November 20, 2023
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle, Bill Caron
Others present: Tammy Letson, Jim Gibson, Lt. Daisey, Al Rossetto, Jerry Monahan, Andre Brasseur, Steve Collins, Pete Marshall, Norm Cotter, Judy Fox, Angella Richard, John Richard, Courtney McLain-Deputy, Melinda Kennett-TC/TX, Ryan Shannon, Chris Caron, Bill Everleth, Larry Barker, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

B. Caron opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

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

3. Department Head Business:

Ambulance – Jim Gibson, EMS Chiefs Report

1. 2023 as of this printing, we have had 420 calls to date.
2. 2022 on this date we were at 430 calls.
3. Comstar commitment report as of 11/10/2023, \$168,915.16. This does not include contract fees or direct payments made to us.
4. A1 and A3 are both in service with no issues.
5. On the 26th, I will be attending the New Hampshire District meeting to over the future of EMS in New Hampshire and the push to get EMS recognized as an essential service.

*Follow up: The district will be sending a letter of support for this to the NH Bureau of EMS for them to advocate for this at the NH State house.

6. Our New Hampshire EMS license has been approved and so we are now good until 2026 in Vermont and 2025 in New Hampshire.

J. Tierney asked if he knows what the Comstar commitments were from last year at this time. Jim will double check it.

Police – William Daisey

Since the last report, we've had 516 calls for service of those, 287 were motor vehicle stops.

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There were 4 crashes and 29 new investigations.

We had 17 arrests with 27 criminal charges attached to those arrests. Of the 17 arrests, 2 were DWI and 3 were drug arrests which were all felony level offenses.

B. Caron asked about the calls for service, what initiates a call. W. Daisey said whenever we initiate a call for service, when we stop a car or make contact with a citizen or when someone calls into dispatch, we have to respond to a call. There is a CFS card that is generated all the calls for the month were 516 and of the 516 – 287 were traffic stops. W. Daisey further described what a call entails.

4. Requested Agenda Matters:

- a. Al Rossetto – Registration Price – Al asked the Board to address a billing error on his registration. The MFG list price from the State is \$66,000; the Tesla he bought with the delivery fee was \$50,880. His wife was told the amount came from Kelley Blue Book. He checked on Kelly Blue Book and it was \$52,000 - \$55,000. He realizes it's the State of NH and the \$66,000 came from them. Nonetheless, it's still incorrect. He's hoping the Board will adjust what he paid; it's not the Town fault. The money he paid didn't go to the State it was the Town's portion. He reached out to Jim Tierney earlier. He's now paid taxes on \$15,240 that he should not have. He has to register the vehicle twice, now, and again in December.

There isn't an appeal process for the DMV, they won't take public input. Tesla doesn't discount their cars. He's tried to figure out how much of the \$15,240 was on the tax log, but it's unclear. Al further discussed. He's reaching out to the Select Board for their help.

The difference between the \$66,000 and \$51,000 is not insignificant; he's hoping that he can get some help. The law says the retail price of the vehicle and Kelly Blue Book doesn't show that. J. Weagle said that Tesla sets the amount; Al didn't agree with that. He feels it's an error and he's paying for it. The money went to the Town and not to the State, he's seen the Board make adjustments to W/S, etc. He's asking that this be treated no differently than an error in billing.

Motion to take under advisement the same as we do for abatements on property taxes, until we find out if we can do by: J. Tierney

J. Weagle said when we are given a price from the State, we can't change it. If he has an issue he needs to talk to the State. Al said they won't talk to him.

B. Caron said we abate you because of the purchase price, when someone buys an RV at a lower price than the retail value they could ask for an abatement. Al said he didn't get a deal. Bill questioned how we could override State law. J. Tierney said take it under advisement because it will be a matter of checking RSA's to see where DRA got authority to do it and what they base their numbers on. If it's based on falsehoods, Tierney said he can then take to the State, but it would be next year come September.

Al said he's gone through the RSA's, and it says the tax will be the mfg. suggested retail value of the vehicle. J. Weagle said they get it from Tesla; when they manufacture they start with one price and then come out with another. It's up to the MFG to say what their suggested retail price is. Al said for as long as he owns this vehicle that's \$15,120 more than what he paid. Because the State of NH is totally unresponsive, the value comes from Kelly Blue Book who doesn't have the same number; he will continue to pay a premium.

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J. Tierney asked Al if he could find the Kelly Blue Book from last September of last year. The way DRA explained it to him that's where they got the information; if they don't adjust more than once / year. They start with what Tesla reported; the next time it gets changed will be in Kelly Blue Book because Tesla doesn't have control over used car values. Al said according to Min Kennett the value will stay with him while he has the vehicle. She said she has to be careful due to trying to get reinstated. Min said a 2022 online is showing as \$66,690 or \$80,000. She showed Al's wife how to look it up online and the same numbers came up for her.

Al said the industry is changing; Tesla has no dealers – he's asking the Board to at least look into this because it's an injustice due to things totally out of his control. The Board will call the DMV. If the Board doesn't want to help a citizen that is being unjustly charged, then he knows where you stand.

B. Caron said the motion wasn't seconded, and he will second so we can look into the situation. We can't supersede the State and further discussed.

2nd by: B. Caron, 2 in Favor, 1 against.

b. Bill Everleth – Fish and Game

Bill is on the Board of Directors for the Fish & Game Club; Larry Barker is the President. They would like the Board to review their information and consider granting the club as tax exempt. The club pays approx. \$1,700 per year in taxes. We do a lot for education; the range is open to the Groveton PD and other PD's to use. They pay a fee; the only reason we charge Groveton is because we pay taxes. There would be an opportunity to reduce Groveton to \$0.00, however we would continue to charge others because they don't pay taxes here.

Tammy said we would have to wait until 2024, there is a form (application) that needs to be submitted and then approved by the Board. Larry said that Liz sent a form, it wasn't the correct one. Tammy said the application needs to be submitted with their financials. The State says we need to have the financials.

Al – if they take the shooting range off the tax rolls would he have access to it. Bill Everleth said he would need a membership. Al said he would need to pay the club to access a property that's not being taxed? He asked what services are provided to the Town. Bill Everleth said the PD uses it and pays \$250.00/year for all the access they want. Bill said it's a club and a membership fee is required; if we are granted tax exempt – then the Groveton PD would no longer need to pay the fee.

Al said you want us to give up \$1,700 to save \$250.00; Bill said Jefferson and Lancaster pay \$250.00 to use it; it's a minimal fee to give them total access. Larry said we want the Town to abate our taxes because we are a certified non-profit and because we provide public service to Groveton residents with the camperships and all the other things that we do. Access to the club would be no different whether we pay taxes or not. We are a 501(c)(7), which means that how we generate our income is by memberships. The fee for a family is \$50.00.

J. Tierney further discussed non-profit organizations, their income, etc. They are eligible to apply just as the catholic church does.

B. Caron said the fee they do charge to be a member of the club is extremely low. He thanked them for the services they provide. Bill Everleth said we do the fishing derby, the 4-H goes up there; we still have bills to pay.

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5. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Other

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Building Permits (2)-

- 1. Map/Lot 222-002 – Silver Star Realty, new septic system. Al said Gabrielle came in back in August and pulled a permit for several items. Both he and Liz thought it was on the original permit and it wasn't. Once we contacted him, he came up and pulled another one. He came in after Veterans day and paid the fee – Al didn't charge him a late fee. It's been approved by DES, etc.

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

- 2. Map/Lot 107-057 – Carolyn McQuiston – small porch on back of garage 6' x 14', fee has been paid.

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

- b. Abatement for Map/Lot 105-004 – Wayne & Courtney McLain - Homeowners are requesting an abatement for the October W/S bill. It was higher than normal discovered a leak in the water line under the house; water was leaking onto the ground. \$193.28 is the total amount. Tammy said the abatement is based on average usage. We abate the sewer and not the water. The leak was on the other side of the meter. \$96.64 is the amount of the sewer.

Motion to abate the sewer for the amount of \$96.64 by: J. Tierney
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

C. McLain asked Tammy if she could tell her why water and sewer were in there? Tammy didn't know. Courtney commented that this was submitted several weeks ago, and it missed the prior meeting. She wasn't aware that it would be on tonight's agenda until late this afternoon. It was missed somewhere along the lines.

7. **Public Comment:

- a. Pete Marshall commented at the last meeting Chris Caron was in Non-Public session after the meeting. The next morning, he asked Jim how Chris made out, and was told he couldn't say. Pete said someone leaked the information. His competitors knew about it within 24 hours. Chris asked B. Caron to step aside due to being family. Chris said when he wants to get on a private session, it's confidential.

J. Tierney said he had a meeting with the PD prior to the Non-Public session; is the fence in the contract? Chris said yes, it's in the contract – 110%. Tierney asked if that could turn a light bulb on. Chris said he and Arsenault have a little war going on right now. Arsenault put it on Face Book, which is only helping Caron's out, but Chris sent it to his lawyer. He came here and told 5 people; then a day later it's out. Maybe he (Arsenault) woke up and said he would put a fence in too. The fence has been a rule for 30 years, but no one has them.

Chris is severely irritated that he needs to beg for anything. The only thing that was made public was the fence, he will come here every meeting to see where we are at. He hasn't got any information back from the Board. 90% of his business is from people in Groveton. He feels for the amount of money he's paying to have a business in Groveton; it's not a very warm and welcome feeling. He would have the red carpet rolled out in Berlin and can't believe Groveton doesn't do that.

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Discussion ensued about recent accidents and Caron's not being called. J. Tierney said the Fire Dept has precedence over the PD. Andre said in the past we've called whoever, we have been asked to go by the PD rotation. They requested Dave Potter when the truck went through a house, due to the complexity of the accident. Andre and Chris further discussed. Chris said when a vehicle owner is looking for their vehicle 2 weeks later and calls into Grafton, it's on their log. J. Tierney said the Fire Dept doesn't come under the Town currently, but starting Jan 1 it will be and they will need to follow the rotation. Andre said they are already following it. The car that went into Deb's house – the rotation was followed. Discussion ensued regarding the towing and the PD and FD not being on the same page. Chris said if it doesn't go through Grafton, there's no way to track it unless the police reports are pulled.

Tierney said he didn't discuss the Non-Public session but can't speak for the others. Tammy has requested the documents through the PD from Grafton but hasn't received them yet. If need be we will match it up with the Police logs and if corrections need to be made, we will make them.

R. Shannon asked who asked him to follow the Police log – Andre if the person in the accident doesn't have a preference, then it reverts to the log to keep things fair. He agrees with it, if we use the same log the wealth is being spread more evenly.

Ryan said if there is a breach of confidentiality, the walls might be a little thin. He moved to have the meeting moved to another location. Chris said the fence information is minimal; however, if he comes in and wants to spend \$100,000 related to his business, and it gets out – that would be a problem. Courtney said she has also had an issue with Non-Public information being leaked. There's a serious problem and it's not just one having a problem, so it should be looked into. When she complained about her Non-Pub issue, she went into Non-Pub to discuss. She feels that potentially the wrecker issue should go to Town Meeting for the voters to vote on. We should be respectful of our community, the Board is voted in by the community, it's an honor. Chris said it's his pride.

Pete Marshall said why shouldn't a taxpayer in Town get all of the calls and when he can't cover then go out to others. Ryan said Whitefield does this, 6 months ago he brought it to the board. He feels it's a big thing. This would be a small step in the right direction.

J. Monahan asked do the calls go to Grafton County? They should go to the PD and let them handle it. J. Tierney asked Lt. Daisey about the dispatch agreement, does it require that tow trucks be called through them. Daisey said there is a wrecker request that goes through dispatch. Tierney said if it goes through dispatch, they are required to follow it. Tammy said the logic behind it – the rotation goes through dispatch. When another officer comes on they don't know who was called. The logic behind is if dispatch does it they know who was called.

Lt. Daisey said we don't call the wrecker, dispatch calls them, he explained the process. If there is an accident, he can specifically request that Caron comes to get his vehicle. If then there is another accident and Caron is next on the list then he would be called. We try to make it as fair as we can. Recently, there was a hic cup, he invited them all in to discuss. They have all renewed their contracts.

J. Monahan commented that Caron is the only tax payer why doesn't he get all the calls. Lt. Daisey said it's always been run that way to make it fair for everyone. Daisey asked if it would be a police operations decision and not a Town Meeting issue? J. Tierney said we can look it up, it might not be a Town Meeting issue.

Chris asked if a warrant article could be put in. Tierney said he doesn't have any objections to putting it on the warrant, but we will also find out if it's binding or advisory. He gave an example of the one way street around the school. Town meeting doesn't have any say over streets – the Board does. Chris said he doesn't want it to be a me decision because he's a business owner.

Jeremy asked who is charge of police operations? J. Tierney said to a point the Board is; we don't have any say about cases. If a decision goes through to make Carons #1, then they would get called all the time, when he's not available the backups would be called. R. Shannon said the Board can have an investigation done of them; J. Tierney said we can call and have them investigated but we wouldn't have privy to the information. J. Weagle said in the past he did the investigation and went to the lawyers and then he brought it back to the Board. Tierney said he's not a trained investigator and would call someone else in.

Bill Caron said he's related to Chris and anything pertaining to his business, he needs to reclude himself when the business is being discussed. He hasn't Leaked any information and is out of the discussion.

Lt. Daisey has a respect for all 3 of the wrecker operators and he enjoys the service they provide to the Town. If something down the road it's decided that Caron's gets all the calls, he feels that the other guy that works for the other company should be prohibited. Chris said Dave is a 1099 employee, he further discussed his DBA process. Lt. Daisey feels this whole thing is a bad idea and Dave should work under his own towing company.

- b. Pete – Veterans Day there was a great thing at the monuments. In the past the PD has stopped traffic. This year the traffic wasn't stopped, and the speaker had to stop several times. Judy said they were there for Memorial Day. They were told that the Legion needs to contact the State to have the road shut down. Min said the Legion didn't want to do it; in the past Marcel and Lloyd would just do it. B. Caron further discussed, and who's guilty for not raising the flag for almost a week after Veterans day. We are not respecting what should happen. Courtney said we had an issue last year with the flag, her Dad went and fixed it. B. Caron said there is a lot of room for improvement going forward. Judy said she and Mike are willing to do it, but need to be told that they can.
- c. Angella Richard - She's Looking for a copy of the PD accident investigation procedure. She sent an email 2 weeks ago and hasn't heard from anyone yet. T. Letson explained some of the email addresses weren't correct, which she did forward on to them. She had a list of items that she wanted to discuss. Tammy said it's been forwarded to the PD, she received Peter Pelletier's and Bill Daisey's responses last night. Angella said she doesn't feel there is any reason why Officer Daisey needs to be involved, he wasn't there.

Angella said what she wants is a copy of the procedure for investigations. Tammy said they have a lot of the SOP's in writing, if this isn't one of them she will have them verbally give it to us and put it in writing for her. Angella has been waiting to hear from the Chief since October 4th; we own a business in Town and are pretty available. Even if it's a matter of there is an investigation going on and this girl will be charged. If the Chief or someone from the department could just come to the shop and let us know what's going on. John said he received a copy of the police report and had to pay for it. But Lee Rice didn't have to pay? Tammy said the Chief has addressed and she received his response.

John said it seems pretty funny that someone can drive through someone's house and there are no charges. J. Tierney asked if a determination has been made that no charges will be filed. Angella said it's on the police report – no charges. She (the driver) lives in Stark, her driver's license is PA. John said he called the State, and it should never have happened. He further discussed the accident and other incidents that happened with the passenger. Courtney commented about an incident in Stark with the same truck.

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J. Tierney asked if the police decided no charges? Or the prosecutor. Tammy said (she could be wrong) but she believes what goes through the County Attorney is a felony. Discussion ensued regarding the incident. Tammy said the Chief isn't available this week. J. Tierney said they will follow up with the Chief when he get backs from vacation.

John said he has insurance but the people that caused the accident did not. J. Tierney said they are still liable in the State of NH. Angella said if people can't find them because the PD has the wrong address on the police report. They are going into Chester, PA and SC looking for them. It's been fun trying to find a lawyer. Officer Dagesse brought the driver home. We have the means to go after them civilly but the information on the report is incorrect. John said his insurance company wasn't happy to find out the information isn't correct.

As far as John knows there have been no charges filed on the Lee Rice house. The officer said they were high, but she passed a sobriety test so there's nothing we can do about it. J. Tierney asked what a field sobriety test is for someone that's high? John said there isn't anyone in our PD to do a field sobriety test on someone high on drugs. Angella said it was Officer Jenkins that told us the passenger was in custody and was wanted on a warrant out of Nashua. The driver admitted to being high and had swerved to miss an animal but wouldn't be charged due to passing sobriety.

Angella asked Andre if he could send the officer over, he was acting very unprofessional. He was laughing and took the driver over by Old Village Rd, he was touching her on the shoulder. Angella is from Town and is proud to be from Town. John said the boyfriend made the complaint about the touching the next day. Tammy said there was not a written complaint; there was a verbal complaint, he was told to fill out a complaint form and hasn't. John said the County Atty knows; Tammy said he could have reached out to them.

- d. Steve Collins – with our expanding police force, with what he's heard here tonight things seem to be getting sketchier. He knows personally of some drug issues that as soon as reported the activity stopped and move elsewhere. With Ryan saying to move the venue for the meeting – it's not a bad idea, he can hear them in the PD. Tammy and J. Tierney further discussed moving the meeting to the Town Office or at least the Non-Public session. Regarding this issue – the Board needs to talk to the Chief. John said they just need to know what's going on with it. We need to figure out how much it will cost us to sue these people.
- e. Norm Cotter – with the Town Clerks position – he was a told over a year ago that it would be 1 year and that was last July. The Board said the DMV needs to give them their written permission back. Tierney said Min has sent the paperwork to re-apply, she hasn't heard from them yet. Min said in her opinion they should have just done it, it's 3 weeks after the deadline. She is anxious for the position and the Town's people; she is paying her own lawyer \$300.00 per hour. Min said she has the experience and knowledge; her patience's are done. She can take her value and go somewhere else. She had some good job offers. She doesn't want to, there is a lot coming up. She feels like she would be turning her back on the residents. She has decisions to make. P. Marshall said this should never have happened. The 3 people that caused this mess don't even live here. The Chief is the one that did the investigation and then lied about it. Pete further discussed.

8. Announcements:

- a. The Town Office will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving.

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- b. M. Kennett – With the upcoming election, the Supervisors of the Checklist are meeting on November 28th, 9:00 – 9:30.

9. Next Board Meeting Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 – 6 pm

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

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 Session at 7:48 pm.

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

Out of Non-Public Session at 8:35 pm

Into Regular Session at 8:35 pm

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

Reason – Affect adversely the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board.

11. Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at: 8:41 pm

*Agenda is subject to change

**Deadline for Agenda items is 12:00 noon on the Friday before scheduled business meeting.
y vote of Board of Selectmen at 7/11/2005 meeting)

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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