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

**Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

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

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

Board members present: Jim Tierney, Jim Weagle, Bill Caron  
Others: Jim Gibson, Tammy Letson, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Al Rossetto, William Everleth, Peter Pelletier, William Daisey, Amanda Anderson, Andre Brasseur, Larry Baker, Sheila Smith, Melinda Kennett, Lori Leigh, Rebecca St Cyr – Minute Taker

**1. Chairman Opens the Board Business meeting:**

B. Caron opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

**2. Acceptance of Minutes:**

Motion to accept the January 2, 2024, minutes by: J. Tierney  
2nd by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

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

Ambulance – Jim Gibson, EMS Director

1. 2024: As of this printing, we have had 13 calls to date.
2. 2023: On this date we were at 21 calls.
3. Comstar commitment report as of 01/12/2024: \$73,267.13. This does not include contract fees or direct payments.
4. We ended 2023 with 467 calls.
5. A1 and A2 are both showing check engine lights and A3 is still having some heating issues in the patient compartment. Appointments have been made for the check engine lights, but the heating issue is a specialty thing.
6. I will be attending a conference call with Homeland Security on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 to go over any thoughts or suggestions on the upcoming eclipse in April.

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7. We currently have one (1) person in an AEMT class and two (2) in an EMT class. All three (3) are active members looking to up their license level.

Jim had some paperwork from NORPAC for the Board to sign.

I've been working with new officer Kyler Kenison. He came up to me the other day and asked about having COVID tests and if that was something we had or carried. It's nothing that I've seen New Hampshire do. I reached out and have been working with the Town of Bloomfield. We were able go through the State of Vermont, and I have 5,000 of them coming. I plan to distribute to the schools and local town offices in NH and VT that we work with. Small businesses as well.

Mutual Aid contract – no changes.

Motion to sign the mutual aid contract by: J. Weagle

2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

B. Caron asked about the heating issue with A3 that J. Gibson mentioned has to be done with the manufacturer. Jim said it will have to go to the manufacturer and will take 2-3 days. The closest location is Rumford, ME, the main location is in SC.

#### Fire Dept – Andre Brasseur, Chief

2023: We responded to 76 calls for service. 29 were MV crashes (the majority of what we do currently), porch fire and six (6) calls to neighboring communities. There was a mixture of several other different types of calls.

2023 was slightly less than average. Usually, we're about the 90 range.

2024: January: We've only had two calls, both the same morning. Both calls were in the Dean Brook area. Andre doesn't know what caused it but thinks an Eversource spike might have exposed a couple of homes that could have had less than ideal wiring.

In the last couple of days, we've had a service person at the Firehouse working on our front-line engine. The newer of the two (2), it's the 21-year-old truck that we're replacing a pump heater and two (2) valves and the master control module was running out. It needed to be replaced, so that's going to be a hefty bill when it's received.

J. Weagle noted that all the trucks are all registered and over on the Town side except for one. We need to find the title.

J. Tierney asked Andre for an estimate on how much the repairs might be. Andre said \$3,000 – \$4,000 maybe. He does have money on other lines that could be moved to cover it. Jim asked him to review with Tammy.

Andre will work on getting a monthly report printed. T. Letson suggested that he email it to Niki, and she would include it with the meeting information for the Board.

#### Police – Chief Pelletier

Police Statistics as of 16 January 2024:

##### 01/01/23 – 12/31/23

Calls for Service:	4,292 (NHSP 110)
MV Stops:	1,845 Tickets: 204
MV Crashes:	64
New Investigations:	276
Arrests:	152 with 321 individual charges
Drug Arrests:	23

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DWI: 18

Since last meeting - (12/18/23) to current

Calls for Service:	287	
MV Stops:	129	Tickets: 15
MV Crashes:	7	
New Investigations:	12	
Arrests:	9	
DWI:	0	
Drug Arrests:	1	

Training

Two (2) officers are now certified in ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) Training. It makes them a better impaired driver detector. There is a basic field sobriety training that everyone takes, then there's ARIDE. The next step is a drug recognition expert. Lt. Daisey was one for many years. It's important to get them certified so we are apprehending all the people that we should. It also helps us with our drug impairment program.

P. Marshall asked if new officer Kyler Kenison could be introduced, stating he was a great choice. Peter introduced him to those in attendance. Kyler said he's easy to get along with and hard on crime. He will be out there visiting businesses and the people to help where it's needed. He said to reach out if you need to.

T. Letson said Peter and Lt. Daisey were in Concord for an award recently. Peter said it was for recognition of Lt. Daisy's efforts made here with grant funding - Getting extra patrols out there, promoting traffic safety and driving safety. He's been responsible for organizing a coalition of over four (4) different police departments and the State Police, to do sobriety check points. He brought that back. He coordinated over 30 of them before coming here. He was invited by Highway Safety to the Police Academy last summer to present a class. We are cooperating with four (4) other agencies to do these check points; it takes a minimum of 9 officers to operate a check point. Traffic safety has improved due to his efforts.

A. Anderson asked about the body cam's. She wanted to know if there is a policy yet? Pete and Bill said we are in the back-and-forth stage of it. Peter said at this point everyone wants to use them. We can make it mandatory, but there are people who have mixed feelings about using them. Amanda would feel safer with them using the cams, if something happens during a stop there isn't any, she said. Peter further discussed the use of body cams. There are rules to when we can and can't use them. We are still working on the policy and will present it when finished. Amanda feels it would be effective for everybody. Pete said it's helpful in a lot of circumstances.

B. Caron asked what the status is of the new cruiser. Pete said there was an issue with the DMV, he's not sure if the plates are on yet. Before the temporary plates expired it went out to be stripped; we were approx. Ten (10) weeks out to get the new radios, lights, etc. We got the new Motorola radios ordered through the grant today. Hoping to have it up and running soon.

**4. Requested Agenda Matters:**

- a. Bill Everleth - Fish and Game - here to see if the request for them to be a non-profit has been processed/approved. T. Letson said the Board has the information from Liz.  
B. Caron reviewed the email chain and timeline. He read the email received from Cindy at CNP suggesting that we may need to reach out to the Town Atty.

T. Letson asked if they are registered at the Federal level or the State level. L. Baker said both, we are and submitted all the paperwork. It's current with the NH Atty General. J. Tierney noted that the Dept of Justice just moved. They were shut down for 1-2 weeks while moving. L. Baker said they submitted the forms to the State prior to the first meeting

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they came to. T. Letson asked if they have been with them as a charitable/non-profit for a couple of years. L. Baker said yes for a long time. A. Anderson asked what the tax amount is, B. Everleth commented \$1,600.

Motion to approve the tax exemption by: J. Weagle  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

J. Tierney recommended that Liz check with the DOJ. They don't need to reapply for the tax exemption unless they lose it for some reason. T. Letson said there is paperwork that needs to be filled out once a year that Liz should be sending out to them.

There is a form the Board needs to sign. Amanda asked if it should be approved contingent on checking with DOJ. J. Weagle said no.

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

- a. Post Office Street Light – T. Letson said that we had a citizen come to us saying the streetlights in the parking lot next to the Post Office aren't lit. We've had a lengthy back and forth with Eversource. Tammy said the lights are not owned by Eversource. S. Smith said the bulbs were very recently removed and asked who did that? J. Weagle said we started asking questions, so Eversource could have taken them out. A lot of time they own the fixtures and not the pole. Tammy said they can't just re-light them without the approval from the Town. There is one on the left when you drive in and the other one is on the right. The Post Office does not own the poles. S. Smith said she contacted the post office and they said it's a municipal parking lot and not their responsibility.

Tammy said the person at the Post Office, who Eversource spoke with, said that the lights haven't been on for years. She presumes they were ones that were shut off when the Board reviewed all the lights years ago. They are metal poles that might be in iffy condition. Eversource said they are more than willing to put a light back on them, we can take down the poles and they will put in new wooden poles, or we can ask them to just put new fixtures in them. The Town will then have to pay for the service. J. Weagle doesn't remember them being on the shut off list. S. Smith said her neighbor told her they were recently on. Al Rossetto said he worked on the streetlight project with Dave Peel and none of the lights near the Post Office were touched.

Tammy is ok with the one next to the Post Office, however, we might want to check with the neighbor about the pole on the left side, because the light would shine right into their windows. Amanda said we might want to find out how much it will cost.

The pole on the left is next to the handicap parking space and the other is on the Post Office side. B. Caron said the Town is over there moving the snow, so the more light the better. N. Cotter mentioned that his sister fell over there a year ago and broke her ankle. The light wasn't on then and it was all dark. He was told that it would be fixed. J. Weagle said the one Norm is speaking of was fixed. It's an Eversource pole.

Motion to ask Eversource to fix the one on right near to the back of the building and leave the other pole there (unlit) by: J. Weagle,  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Tierney

A. Brasseur asked if there was anyone in the Town that goes around and checks the lights to be sure they are on. Eversource bills for them whether they are working or not. It's possible the bulbs are just out and we are still paying for them. There are no numbers on the poles in question. Tammy said we will get a list of the poles that we are paying for and have someone go around and look at them. Andre said he finds a lot for the State that aren't working and they continue to bill for them even if they aren't working. Tammy noted

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that we have some that work both ways, it's not a direct bill for and we have some that come individually to us. The streetlight bill is just a direct streetlight bill.

All in Favor 3-0

- b. Other: School Care renewal rates – T. Letson said this is our health insurance. It goes from July 1 – June 30. The rates are phenomenally low compared to others. We have a higher deductible, but offer the HSA to offset that. The rates have gone up 9.9%. This is just health insurance and is the same as school. They got a little bit of reduction when we went on with them and we got a huge deduction by joining the school.

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

A Brasseur asked about the precinct insurance and how much it will save. Tammy said the bill was higher, but it's not broken down to reflect how much is from the Fire Dept. joining vs. how much was from our claims. She said they are saving, but she doesn't know if it's as nice as she estimated. When the bill was received, it took an \$8,000 jump, but she doesn't have the break down. The Fire Dept was paying approx. \$12,000/year, so it will be a savings.

Amanda asked if we could find that out? T. Letson said she can ask. Amanda commented that we are so into spending, it's nice to see savings. J. Tierney said the Board isn't in favor of spending, it's the people that approve the spending.

- c. T. Letson was asked to have a Public Hearing tonight for Rich Archer re: CDBG application. It was postponed until January 26, due to needing to be posted in public places for twelve (12) days instead of ten (10) days. We knew it needed to be emailed and sent to the Union Leader (a daily NH newspaper) so now everything has been posted as it should be. It's scheduled for 3:00 p.m. per CDBG regulations. It will be held at the 10 Station Square meeting room. J. Weagle asked why it had to be in the Union Leader; Tammy explained that it needs to be in a NH based daily newspaper. The cost comes out of the grant.
- d. Assessing RFPs – We sent the assessing RFPs to 15 DRA approved organizations. A decision doesn't need to be made tonight. CNP said no, as they don't have the staff. B. Caron reviewed the two (2) responses that were received, neither of them were interested. Min said Colebrook recently sent out RFP's and didn't get anybody. J. Weagle questioned that if we don't get one, is it the Board that takes over? T. Letson said CNP has stated they will work with us for another year and will do the pickups, but not the reval. By law it goes to the Selectmen. J. Tierney said there are rules that we would need to follow from DRA. That becomes the problem and that for \$1,200 per year, the Board doesn't have a lot of time to do this. Discussion continued regarding the Selectmen having to do the assessments.
- e. Budget Workshop and Public Hearing: T. Letson said the Board needs to set the next budget hearing. J. Weagle noted the School Board set their time for Town Meeting for 9:00 a.m. Discussion about Town Meeting and School Meeting. Min commented that she's not sure they should still be on the same day. The past couple of years have been long. We used to have Precinct, Town and then School over three (3) Tuesday nights in a row, but it got to be too late for people. Then, the Select Board changed it to Saturday.

P. Marshall noted that last year it dragged on, so that people just voted on what was up to get through it. We have two (2) meetings. Min thinks that if the presentations are sharp, it could save some time. J. Tierney said if a meeting is suspended and it's over two (2) days, there is an extra cost for the Moderator and Supervisors of the Checklist to come in. We could start at 8 a.m. and suspend at 9:00 a.m. for the school, but they meet with their lawyer prior to the meeting.

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Min suggested having a break for lunch to break up the day and suggested someone should speak with the school about selling food for a fund raiser. Tammy said she did last year, and they weren't interested. The reason given was if the meetings just ran for an hour there wouldn't be anyone there to eat it.

B. Caron mentioned Stark holds it all on a weekday, J. Weagle said that's why we changed it because it went until 1:00 a.m. one year. Min likes having the election on one day and Town meeting on the following Saturday with all the reporting, etc. Tammy isn't a fan of holding it at 10:00 a.m. on a weekday, as most people are off on the weekend and have the choice to attend.

J. Tierney said if you want short meetings, you can do SB2. The deliberative session might have 5-10 people show up and go through the whole thing over two (2) hrs. Then, everyone gets to vote on it on election day. The numbers have all been agreed on. You vote on the budget and those being elected. T. Letson said with a deliberative session, whoever shows up are the ones that settle on the amounts for the Town. J. Tierney noted if it's turned down it goes by the default budget. If anyone is complaining about their taxes and attended Town Meeting, they need to say no to something.

S. Smith asked if it's just taxpayers that get to vote? Any registered voter can vote. Al Rossetto said he agrees with J. Tierney that SB2 is a better way to get more people involved in the process. Currently, only 130 – 150 of the people make the decisions that affect the entire Town. Amanada said we also have a lot of elderly people that might not get to the meeting. Al said we need greater participation in the government. Al asked how the process for SB2 starts. J. Tierney said through a warrant article. Al asked the Board if any of them are in favor of it. J. Tierney discussed SB2 in Hampton. They voted for their wallets and said no to the numbers and they also liked it being private. Tierney further discussed the SB2 process. Last year we didn't lower the numbers on anything. They tried but it didn't pass.

S. Smith asked if with SB2, did you mail out what had been arrived at or did everyone show up just to vote on it? J. Tierney said there is still a Public Hearing. Tammy said the Annual Report is out before the meeting and it can be read before the meeting. Whatever questions you have can be asked during the Town meeting, but with SB2, you will need to call the Town office. S. Smith asked if it can be brought up; J. Tierney said if we do, it would be two (2) years out before being able to use it.

P. Marshall commented on people voting during the meeting. With SB2 you get a packet for the budget. J. Tierney said only certain parts require the voting to be open for an hour (a Bond issue does). The Moderator will ask if everyone has voted and close the voting. The length of the conversations is the stickler in any of it.

Briefly discussed the water rate increases. The project increases are not on them yet. M. Kennett said we hadn't had an increase for several years and got it all at once.

For the public hearing we have until Feb 6 to allow for warrant articles. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> is the last day we can hold it. The School Board wants to have theirs on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. The Board scheduled Feb 9<sup>th</sup> with a snow day of Feb 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for both dates. Between now and the 9<sup>th</sup>, they need to have a workshop at whatever time they want. The workshop is scheduled for Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. They will discuss the budget and the warrant articles they want to bring to the public at Town Meeting. It will be held at the Town Office.

Min noted that she will be setting up for the Tuesday, Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> election on Thursday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup>.

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

a. Building Permits (3)-

1. Map/Lot 223-017: Lee Rice & Deb Weeks – Replacing front porch (damaged in accident), remodel bathroom. Fees have been paid. Al commented they started already, but due to the circumstances, he and Liz thought it wasn't unreasonable for them to get the repairs started.

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

2. Map/Lot 107-157: Nicole Canavan – remodel bath, bedroom, and hallway. Fees have been paid.

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

3. Map/Lot 256-003-00-00: Mark Nowak – 6' x 14' toilet stall; B. Caron reviewed the specs. A. Rossetto said this property owner installed a septic system with no permit. We tried to contact the owner numerous ways with no response. A cease-and-desist Order was put on the door. It's not that the septic system wasn't approved by the State, but he didn't pull a Town permit. The fees and penalties haven't been paid. Another permit was pulled for additional work that will be attached to the septic system, which is in. He suggested tabling until the fees and penalties have been paid. It's a walk-in to get to the property. It's \$350.00 that he owes, there isn't an issue with setbacks. Al would like to get it resolved and move on. J. Tierney said the Town can take him to court requesting that all the Towns legal fees be paid and tear out the system if he refuses. Al further discussed.

Motion to sign once the fees and penalties for the septic system have been paid by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Al said there was an application filled out, he just hasn't paid. Amanda asked about it being all legal before signing. Tammy said that's how we found out about it was from the State.

a. Abatements (10)

1. Map/Lot 229-025-MH-04
2. Map/Lot 104-220
3. Map/Lot 104-047
4. Map/Lot 232-004
5. Map/Lot 249-007
6. Map/Lot 107-164
7. Map/Lot 103-024
8. Map/Lot 102-006
9. Map/Lot 240-009 and 010
10. Map/Lot 251-014

Motion to send all abatements listed above to the assessors by: J. Weagle  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Tierney, All in Favor 3-0

**7. \*\*Public Comment:**

- P. Marshall asked about the abatements and what will happen if the assessors don't come up with anything. J. Weagle said they will send them back to us and the Board reviews. We then approve or not. Pete said he owns the property, but not the mobile home that's on it, trailer. T. Letson said that Pete's was one of the ones brought up to the assessors. They told her that one is improved because it has the mobile home and septic and water

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on it. They didn't bill you for the mobile home, the other one didn't have any improvements.

- N. Cotter asked what is going on with Min not being in the Town Office? The Board hasn't received an official resignation. Min said that she is just working part-time until somebody else is elected. J. Weagle said the Board can't appoint anyone until it's official, then we can appoint someone until Town Meeting. Min wanted it so the people can elect who they want. B. Caron said it has to be a letter to the Board.
- N. Cotter noted that last weekend there was a basketball tournament at the gym. The streets were a mess. You couldn't park cars, it wasn't plowed, and the sidewalks were icy. Some parked at the funeral home. He asked why can't the ballfield be plowed to park cars there? J. Weagle said we can't park on the ball field because people are stupid and dig up the field. Plowing isn't the issue.
- Abatements – Lori Leigh isn't complaining about the amount she is willing to pay. She knows when we voted on the budget it was approved with some increases. She was thinking she would see a \$300 - \$400 difference on the second bill. Her problem is that her bill wasn't received until 12/07/23. She has a fixed income and is waiting on fuel assistance. Her bill is \$1,400. She has a mobile home, how is that possible? She asked about the deadline and shouldn't they come out sooner? J. Weagle explained the first issue tax bill is based on the previous year, anything above that gets added to the second issue. Lori stated that the value on her 30-year-old mobile home went from \$29,000 up to \$87,120 and questioned why she wasn't given more than a 12 day notice to pay? She discussed Lancaster, and asked how the elderly are doing it. She stated "you slammed us 14 days before the due date." She's on Brown Road and she still hasn't received her water/sewer bill. Her bill was mailed on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and received on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. Why can't the deadlines be sooner?

She's heard if the tax bills aren't out by November 1<sup>st</sup>, it has to wait until January. Tammy said it's not a rate as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, it's what the condition of the building was on April 1<sup>st</sup>. She gave an example. The assessment is based on whatever was there on April 1<sup>st</sup>. We can't change that either up or down until the following April 1<sup>st</sup>. The re-assessments were started five (5) years ago, but they had to update to April 1, 2023. The tax year runs from April 1 – March 31. J. Weagle said the assessors do have deadlines for when they need to be done, which was November 15, 2023. Min said by law the 1<sup>st</sup> issue needs to be out by June 15 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is due by Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and should be out by Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. The money needs to come in so the Town can pay all the bills around Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. The bills were out on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

Tammy discussed the expenses and deadline for when the Town needs to pay them. Because the tax year runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. We do technically have the right to do the bills in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the next year, but it doesn't work for the Town's cash flow. She said Min was awesome and had everything ready when the rate was received on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Lori asked if their deadline could be changed to an earlier date. Tammy said we do that for the other four (4) years, the reval is a five (5) year process. It's something that she would like to see the Town push for and move the date forward on future revals.

Lori says she tries to budget but can't work right now, that you try to stay ahead, but is tough to expect a \$500 bill and get one that's a lot more. By the time she stopped panicking, she had less than 30 days to pay it. Tammy said the assessed values are supposed to be on current market value. Mobile homes have gone up. Lori said usually mobile homes depreciate. J. Weagle said people are buying second homes for 2-3 times at what they are valued.

Discussion continued regarding the value of Lori's property. J. Weagle said it's comparable. Tammy noted they have to be consistent within neighborhoods. An example – Al Rossetto's area. Everyone's land value starts at a base amount of \$89,000/acre.

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Why did the values on Brown Road go up so much? Tammy said because the values in the neighborhood went up. B. Caron discussed his property on Brown Road and the increased value of just the land. He was told by the assessor that it's based on market value. His house is 210 years old and needs some work.

Amanda asked if there is going to be a re-assessment and what can we do for that? It makes zero sense. The assessments are not correct. She was going to reach out to the assessors because she was in real estate for years and it's not right. She reached out to them to get a list of all the properties to review. At the last meeting, some specific properties were discussed: one mobile home in the Page Hill area went from \$69,000 to \$189,000. In her neighborhood and on Lancaster Rd., there is no way it would be valued as such. Another person she knows went down a lot and is in a neighborhood where values went up. Why are the commercials down? They should be higher than residential. She feels that "market value" is a generic answer. B. Caron said he asked them to be more specific and further discussed.

Amanda asked if we could ask them to do another reval? J. Weagle said he's been through 3 revals; every time we get this big uproar when the values go up. We hired this company to do this work and we have to go with their numbers. Amanda discussed a project for materials; when people know you don't know that area, they throughout market value. Bill said he asked why his property value went up and further discussed.

Lori asked if she could go out and get her own assessment and bring it to the Board. B. Caron discussed that he went to the bank for an assessment. It would cost approx. \$600.00. It could come back as less, but if it comes back higher; it could cost him more.

Amanda noted even in the same neighborhood it would be different. You can go out and ask for a CMA. A lot of the numbers are not adding up. There are a lot of elderly people that can't afford this. Amanda said her rent, water/sewer is through the roof. S. Smith commented you probably wouldn't find it different anywhere else. It's happening everywhere.

B. Caron said if you file an abatement, we send it off to the assessors, they review and send back, the Board reviews and approves or not. The next step is the landowner takes it to BTLA or Superior Court to appeal. S. Smith said in her area it was the land. It went from \$7,600 to \$36,000. J. Weagle and J. Tierney discussed the 2006 revals when there weren't any comparable's. Some properties skyrocketed and others went down. Tierney said the assessors were told by BTLA to fix it. If we ask the assessors to redo this reval the Town would have to pay for it. It's not in the Town budget. Amanda said we have rentals, and the property owners won't do it. She noted that there are rentals in Town for over \$3,000 plus utilities. J. Tierney said the landlords will do it when no one rents their property. Min commented that it's our due diligence to review our property cards and if we think there is a mistake go through the abatement process. J. Tierney said if the assessors come back with lower amounts, the tax money goes back to the property owners. We would have to take out a TAN note to pay them back.

Tierney said we have approx. \$2,000,000 in the bank right now. Tammy said before Min started taking in the tax money, it was approx. \$200,000. Tierney said the \$2,000,000 has to last until the next tax bill goes out on May 15<sup>th</sup>. For Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr and May we have approx. \$250,000 - \$275,000 monthly that goes to the school, plus all the payroll and other bills.

- Amanda - commercial water – they pay a higher demand fee than residential. Everyone pays the same amount for the water. The size of piping going into a business, they pay accordingly. For fire suppression they pay more. Amanda asked why we can't charge the businesses more? Jim T. said we are restricted by the State as how that gets done per RSA's. To the best of his knowledge there are not any bills in to charge businesses at a

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higher rate than what individuals pay. Discussed the mill property. It was assessed low when residential was charged much higher. Jim T. isn't sure what they considered. There is Brownfield land that is different. If anything is done, the contamination needs to be removed. Brown Road was a bark dump, the 55-gallon drums were dumped on Emerson Road.

- Amanda asked if there was anything we can do as renters, that some people are paying outrageous amounts for rent, plus the heat and w/s. Jim T. said no, there is a bill having to do with tax caps throughout the entire state. He's not sure what the bill is intended to do. Tammy said because the revals went up the tax rate went down. We are no longer the highest in the State.
- Pete asked what's going on with this thing at motor vehicles, it's getting ridiculous. Nobody has any answers, nobody knows anything. It's costing this Town extra money. Do you realize what the impact is going to be? He's talked to a lot of them in the Town office. You could end up with no one in there. With all that's going on, he supports Min's decision 100%. Min said she had set a deadline, that if the DMV didn't reinstate her, it was Dec 31. Then everyone was going to get done. She shouldn't have signed up back in March, but she did. Now she's exhausted trying to make everything right, which is killing her because she loves her job. Eldora was going to get done but agreed to stay on Tues and Thursdays. She also helped with the water bills. Courtney is still there four (4) days/week. N. Cotter asked if the work is getting backed up? Min said yes, but hopes that things eventually get back to normal. It hurts her to get done, but it's time. B. Caron said we haven't gotten any word from Concord. Pete feels that someone somewhere has to have an answer. J. Tierney said the DMV hasn't told us anything. B. Caron said it's up to the State. It's not our system.

Amanda commented respectively that she is absolutely disgusted that the Board has allowed what has been going on. She feels the townspeople will seriously suffer a great loss by her leaving and all of them. It's affected her health. Amanda said she has been quiet about this, but not anymore. She has seen how this has affected her and the three Board members sit there and say nothing. The Board is elected, and they sit up there doing nothing. You put someone in that should have been elected. Bill said Tammy isn't a mayor, she is the Town Administrator, and she can be hired by the Board. Amanda said if it's illegal for one it should be carried over for all, harassment should not be tolerated. B. Caron said we will let the law decide when the law is broken. She said there isn't anyone that's going to want that job and it will end up being appointed.

- N Cotter asked when this gets straightened out, are you going to have a party for her? Absolutely!!
- Jim Gibson noted that during the last storm, the wind blew out a window in the front of this building on the third floor. Please let the owner know.

## **8. Announcements:**

- a. A Public Hearing is scheduled for January 26, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the 10 Station Square Meeting Room. This is for to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the train station building.

## **9. Next Board Meeting Date:** Monday, February 5, 2024, at 6 p.m.

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

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

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Into Non-Public session at – 8:41 pm.

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

Out of Non-Public session at 9:25 pm.

Into Regular session at 9:25 pm.

Motion to accept the resignation of Min Kennett as the elected Town Clerk/Tax Collector as of 01/23/24 at 11:59 pm by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

Motion to appoint Min Kennett as Interim Town Clerk/Tax Collector as of: 01/24/24 at 12:07 am by: J. Tierney, 2<sup>nd</sup> by: J. Weagle, All in Favor 3-0

B. Caron said that she needed to submit a letter of resignation as well.

**11. Adjournment:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca St. Cyr  
Minute Taker

\*Agenda is subject to change

\*\*Deadline for Agenda items is 12:00 noon on the Friday before scheduled business meeting  
(By 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

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