

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (Draft)

Date: Monday, December 7th, 2020

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting "social distancing" will be practiced and wearing of masks is strongly encouraged

Select Board Members Present: Michael Phillips, Chair, William Caron, Jim Weagle.

Others Present: Glenn Cassady, Reginald Caron, Pete Marshall, Melinda Kennett, Robin Irving

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Michael opens the meeting and asks for a motion to accept minutes.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Michael asks for correction in minutes regarding the motion for the Ambulance Capital Charge changed to \$20. Jim motioned, William seconded, all in favor 3-0.

Jim makes motion to accept minutes with correction, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

- a. Department Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer Depts.

Highway Dept. Glenn Cassady.

Have not heard anything back on pricing for the sidewalks.

Literature distributed to Selectmen on chloride tanks and pricing.

The tank can be used in the winter as well as in the summer for dirt roads.

Jim asks if the controls are inside the truck. Glenn answers that they are.

Michael asks for motion for Glenn to purchase deicer equipment. Jim makes motion to allow Glenn to purchase deicer equipment, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Glenn continues discussion on salt. 3 loads have been received, 1 mixed with sand, 2 in 2 bays for storage. Not sure how winter will go, has been light so far, not sure if the balance should be purchased or credit to next year. Material for the Cemetery road has been purchased, maintenance, brush cutting and prepping for winter.

Michael starts discussion on personnel to use for plowing. Paul budgeted 12 hours for Bryan and if you want to use Bryan you should put into your budget.

Glenn brings up that Bryan wants to know if he would get overtime for being called in early. Glenn explains that he would not because of his part time status. Paul cannot be used because he is on a four ten hour day schedule and using him would be overtime.

William asks Glenn if he will be attending the building committee meeting. Glenn says he was not planning on going.

No more questions for Glenn.

Reggie gives his report on Sewer and Water Dept. Starts with speaking about the department is busy with more leaks. Having to open hydrants, flush them and then re-winterize them. Had an issue with a homeowner heading to Florida for the winter and call to have their water shut down. When Glenn arrived he found the shut off waterline was leaking and wondered why this was not brought up earlier? Hoping that the homeowner's waterline will be replaced next summer, replacing the plastic with metal.

Reggie reports that even with the leaks they are at a historical lows with water use, and have saved \$1600 in electricity with the variable drives.

The new Scada system arrived last week and they are in the testing and performance before putting online.

Reggie reports that Winston is out for 6 to 8 weeks for medical, but Keith and himself are covering it, only doing emergency stuff. Both he and Keith have not been able to take vacation time, trying to leave early from the work day to try to get the vacation time used before the end of the year.

There was an error in PODs reported in sample, they were too high. There was a dead animal and the lab made an error with the sample. The water was retested after treatment and found to be good. Reggie to talk to the lab who does the processing of the samples. Too many errors being made in sample results and this results in warnings from the State. Robin agrees too many errors.

Robin brings up that Steve LaFrance was boring sample holes for the preliminary engineering report for the hill project. It was due to the USDA by November 30, but was not submitted. May get report by December 11th and the application is due December 18th, will be a frantic task to get that submitted in time.

b. Discussion vote to return holiday premium

Michael brings up the decision to return holiday premiums to employees on the Dental insurance. The total rebate is \$739.72, 20% goes back to the employees.

Jim makes motion to reimburse employees for Dental insurance, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Discussion vote to accept health premium rate for second half 2021

Michael starts discussion on regular insurance. The rate that will start July 2021 is up by 9.5% to \$539.50 per month for a single person, 2-person will be \$1,079 and for family will be \$1,456.50. The single rate changes to \$504 with the holiday premium as other changes will adjust.

Jim makes motion to have the Chairman sign the new health rate for the second half of 2021. William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Discussion announcement of planning board resignation and letter of interest received

Michael relays that Addison Hall has put his resignation to the Planning Board effective November 18th. There has been a letter of interest received from Nicole Canavan to fill in. The Planning Board is in favor of this appointment. Jim makes motion to approve appointment to Planning Board, William seconds the appointment, all in favor, 3-0.

- d. Point of information on what criteria meets "public meeting" requirements during State of Emergency Order

Questions on methods of holding virtual meetings during the State Emergency of Order. Legal was consulted, Facebook and Messaging, video chat never appropriate because it would mean people would have to join that platform and that would be a barrier to entry. Telephone conversations only.

Robin discusses different platforms, the costs and participant limitations and time length to hold a meeting as barriers. There is some thought that March Town Meeting may have to be virtual. Suggests a phone line that all can call in on. Donna Jordan is going to ask the Governor for more information on Town Meeting requirements.

Comments and discussion that lots of people did not attend last year's Town Meeting because Covid was just starting.

Robin brings up the fact that this year there are 2 bonds that need to be voted on and need all the participation that can be gotten.

Michael begins discussion on 2 grants awarded, one was for \$5000 and is completely used up, the second grant was for \$1,740.31 and there is only \$208.85 of postage applied to it. If any money is left it will have to be returned. Suggestions of buying more booths, postage, upgrading the handicap booth. Has to be used on tangible items.

Discussion begins on the next and final 2021 budget work session.

Monday January 25th, at 6pm will be the last work session. Public budget hearing will be on February 10th at 6pm

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

- a. Intents to Cut (2)

- 1. Tom Covell, Map 101, Lot 431, Maple Street.

Jim makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- 2. Conservation Commission wants to log the watershed property with 100 cords of cordwood and lumber going to Town. Jim makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- b. Veterans Credit Application

Kent Holden, all requirements met, Jim makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- c. Surviving Spouse Veterans Credit Application

Alice Wilkinson, all requirements met, Jim makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- d. Running Water program application

- 1. Groveton Village Precinct at the Fire Station
- 2. Dennis Segoin, Wheems Drive.
- 3. Northern School District

Jim makes motion to approve all 3 requests. William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

- e. Abatement from court and Eversource in the amount of \$4,648.50 adjustment.
Jim makes motion to approve, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Holiday Schedule announcement

Transfer station closed December 25th and reopens December 26th

New Year's closed Friday, January 1st, reopens Saturday January 2nd.

Curbside pickup will have none on Christmas and New Year's but will pickup again on the Saturdays after the holiday.

Selectmen's Office closed December 24th at Noon, and closed Christmas the 25th. Reopens on December 28th.

- b. Building Committee Meeting Announcement

Meetings on December 8th at 6pm and December 22nd at 6pm.

Jim makes motion to go into Non-Public Session at 6:51pm, William seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Jim makes motion to come out of Non-Public Session at 7:52pm.

6. Adjournment: Jim makes motion to adjourn at 7:53pm, William seconds, all in favor 3-0.

Next meeting, December 21, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan

Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

William Caron
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3,II (c)): entered at 6:51pm

Jim makes motion to come out of Non-Public at 7:52pm, William seconds, all in favor 3-0.