

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Draft Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, May 4th, 2020

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Business meetings will adhere to Executive Emergency Orders #16 and #26 No more than 10 total people will be allowed in the meeting room at any point during the meeting and those attending must practice social distancing

Chairman present: Chris Wheelock, Chair, Jim Weagle, Michael Phillips

Others present: Kathy Wiles, Glenn Cassady, Al Rossetto, Melinda Kennett, Reginald Charron, recorder.

1. Chairman opens the meeting: Chris opens meeting at 6pm.

2. Acceptance of Minutes: Corrections to be made

Chris reads corrections to be made are as follows:

Section 3 should read Ambulance and Police Dept., not Ambulance and Water/Sewer

First paragraph should read Jim, not Glenn.

Section 6 Water/Sewer Abatement should be Harold and Nancy Marshall not Richard and Nancy Marshall.

Section 7 Yield Tax Warrants should read as follows:

1. \$2,879.65 – Operation 19-347-07T Lost Nation Nature Preserve

2. \$207.62 – Operation 19-347-06T Dupuis, Richard and Tracy

3. \$481.93 – Operation 19-347-09T Keenan, Joseph

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

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Dept. Head Business: Highway and Water/Sewer

Glenn reports that trucks were stripped down from winter plow and put away, but plows were put back on in anticipation of snow, but did not get, only in Nation. Completed the demo on 1 structural trailer and 2 left. Lawn repairs, but with rain Spring cleanup being delayed. Hopefully another trailer will be done this week and then we can jump right onto Spring sweeping. Removed the Rec Dept dug out. Volunteers are building a new one.

Jim would like Glenn to catch up with him to give him sign for ball field.

Glenn reports the grader will be coming at the end of the week and working thru the weekend.

Michael asks where the road limits are at.

Glenn reports that the State recommends mid-May to lift limits. Received a call from Swallow asking when the road limits would be removed. Glenn replied that the road limits are being kept on because the State and Lancaster limits are still in effect. Maybe another week or so.

Michael was going to write up the concrete part of the bid for the salt shed but

forgot. Do we need to put out to bid like Town Report.

Jim mentions that it is ok not to advertise because it does not affect Federal money.

Chris asks if anything more for Glenn. There is not so Reggie is about to report.

Reggie reports that with the Covid-19 pandemic he is seeing a tightening up of water usage. Since schools and businesses closed there has been a drop of 9400 gal/day pumped, now down to less than 190,000 gal/day pumped which makes it seem that our system is tight. Now below 30% versus a couple years ago at 70%. If we are pumping less, we are using less. KWH looked at for the water plant, because of the variable speed drives there will be a savings of 40 to 50 KWH per day this year, great stuff. Keith and Winston are making meter repairs, and changing meters in the meter pit. We are getting good GIS mapping of the water system including most curb stops, that is way ahead of what is done by most towns which they take about 20 years. Hopefully if weather gets warmer we will be doing the flushing of hydrants and opening up cemeteries, but we need to wait for warmer weather. On the Sewer side, the culvert at Wilson's house has been cleared, so the wet lands created by the plugged culvert is no longer wet. There are no issues with backups and flushing is good with the rain and less things being flushed that should not be. The first time in 12 years very happy to be on the job. Keeping up well with projects, business as usual. Flushed the line for Co-Gen, now they are almost connected to water and sewer.

Michael mentions that water and sewer rates have not been raised in 2 years. Less water usage and pumping is great but cuts revenue.

Min is trying to explain the increase. She received a call from a landlord saying they will have to increase the rent to cover the water/sewer increase. Would like to know if they are going to raise them again next year. Min's reply was they may or may not.

Reggies brings up the fact that the mill has been gone for 14 to 15 years now. Rates could have been raised then but weren't. This is an education for the public on use.

Min brings up that you always have a handful of complaints, but this time there aren't any.

Reggies makes note that the town residents need to know that there have been 2 major projects done in this town.

b. Abatement requests (2)

c. Discussion of "Code Enforcement Officer"

Chris has talked about the meaning of "Code Enforcement Officer", along with AI and feels that it involves more than what is being looked for. Looking more for someone to facilitate building permit applications and to make sure the setbacks are correct.

Michael says the idea of building inspector is not the same up here as it is in down state towns. Does not an in your face building inspector. Term of code enforcement came from Terry, not sure why.

Chris mentions that it may have been to try and drop some of the liability for the town.

Jim: This is so the State Fire Marshall can be called in to determine a situation.

Michael: Want a facilitator for building permits and a building inspector but not in the buracratic sense.

AI: Thought that was the job, was surprised to see Code Enforcement title in the Town Report. Want to be helpful to get the job done, but for a title rather be a building

inspector rather than a code enforcement officer.

Chris: mulled the term over and building permit facilitator is the preferred.

Al: how about building inspector?

Jim: trying to stay away from that because if there is a situation that comes up above you then the State Fire Marshall can be called in. They don't like to come in to determine a situation if there is a building inspector in the town. So they can be called and won't hesitate so much to come if there is no building inspector.

Chris: Propose a change to building permit facilitator. Will work on the description with Al and have Becky put something together. After reviewed, vote to be sure that is the direction to go.

4. Michael: Could even be building facilitator.

5. Chris: Will work with Al and send an email if some ideas come up. So in the interim, we have decided not to go down that path but stay with building permit. All Selectmen and Al in agreement.

Al: can I sign the permits in the pile?

Michael: you mean you want to facilitate?

d. Discussion of PPE/Essential Personnel –Town Office

Chris: emails have been received over the week looking at all town personnel. A request for the Highway and Sewer crews to wear masks in the Town office was requested. I have no problem with that, will send an email to all department heads. There is a topic and I talked with Min via email. Until the next set of rules, we have Jeffrey who hangs around in Min's office pretty much for the day.

Min: he gets there just before lunch and then I bring him home.

Chris: If we are having town employees wear masks we should have town residents wear them. The Governor has just extended the stay at home order and we are going to keep people out of the town offices further. Since this has gone on I have heard from 2 residents who ask why they can't go into the town office if there is a town resident in the office? Speaking of Jeffrey. I went in twice today and Jeffrey has his mask on, but, that question was brought up to me twice. Should we allow Jeffrey to be in the town offices.

Michael: As long as Jeffrey wears his mask he is an exception and should be allowed to stay as long as the town office is ok with it. I'd be fine with it. I can understand what you are saying about residents.

Jim: He wears a mask and helps Min and I'm fine with it.

Min: Originally we were supposed to open up. Elaine came back from vacation and she's not ready, scared of this and rightly so. We are not opening until she is ready. Elaine is handling the mail and here stuff, I'm going out to customers. Will make it work as long as needed.

Michael: Becky looking into the cost of a remote lock, I'm in favor of it.

Min: this just started in Maine, my daughter sent me the information.

Michael: should get the beeper too, would like to proceed with this.

Chris: would be nice to have a push button. We have appointment only who can just walk into the building, this would be another level of security.

Min: Glenn and Reggie came in before without masks and we did not mind, thought we would be opening.

Chris: wanted to get everybody's opinion while we were all here.

Jim: a pop up tent was mentioned if Min would like.

Min: No, afraid of the wind blowing it away, I'm fine as is.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Building Permit Applications (3)

1.) Arthur "Joe" & Sue Marineau purchased 62 Page Hill Rd., the parcel next to their residence with a camp and shed on it. Want to demo both the camp and wood shed, and plan to rent a dumpster. Signed by Al, fee paid. Jim makes motion to approve, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

2.) Shirley Carney - 10 Tetu Rd. - wants to replace her 12 X 16 back deck with a 12 X 12 addition with full foundation plus 12 X 8 deck. Kurt Gilcris is the carpenter. Fee paid. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3.) Suzanne Batchelder - 31 West St. Wants to demo the house. Replacing with a stick built ranch home 24 X 48 3 bedroom, 2 bath house with metal roof, full cellar. Rick Robinson, Contractor. JD Plumbing, Plumber. Kyle McAllister, Electrician. Fee has been paid. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

4.) Rose McGlone - 144 State St. Paving was supposed to happen later but Central was in town today. No foot print change, just tax increase, not exceeding \$5,000. Does not need a building permit. All Selectmen in agreement, good to go.

b. Intent to Cut - Neil Siriach, Map 206, lot 001. Town Line Rd is the access. 460 acres, cutting 250. Richard Dupuis is logger. Met all requirements. Jim makes motion to approve, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

c. Yield Tax - Neil Siriach, Map 206, lot 001, operation number 19-347-08T for \$3,991.52. Jim makes motion to accept, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

d. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application - Lee Lamont, Zachary Lamont and Sara Wilmot of Roaring Brook Road. Fee paid. Jim makes motion to accept, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

7. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

Kathy Wiles asks how the Police Dept is doing. Third time in 2 years been robbed, but amount is too small to claim thru insurance. Last time antiques were taken, can buy new but, can't replace memories. This is an unacceptable violation. Need a proper Police Dept. Need a visual drive by. Have not seen police on my road in a long time. So how are we doing, need protection.

Jim: currently we have 3 part time and 2 full time, looking for applicants, lost one to Berlin 6 months ago.

Kathy: Need coverage on 3 to 11 and 11 to 7. People are not supposed to be out with this pandemic but are.

Chris: The 2 full time have different schedules, explanation of the number of officers both full time and part time and their availability. Expresses concern over ATV trails opening.

Kathy: How is this going to be handled? Lived there for 35 years and only the last 2 years have been a problem.

Chris: Know you've heard us saying we are working on it. We have one recent graduate who can now go on patrol.

Michael: There will be another graduate this fall.

Jim: seems like we take one step forward and 10 steps back.

Kathy: is there a full budget for the Police Dept?

Michael: there is a budget for 4 full time, have 2, still looking. Pay grade is competitive.

Jim: bigger towns can outbid us, but for small towns we are competitive.

Chris: are we where we wanted to be a year ago? No. But we are better than we were.

Michael: Have you contacted Peter?

Kathy: Yes and he responded that he will try to get someone out there more often. I told him we haven't seen anyone in years. Very frustrating. Thanks for your time. This just takes away the good feeling about your home.

Chris: anything else for public?

Glenn: work is starting on the guard rails.

Michael: on Thompson Road there is supposedly someone who has built a structure without a building permit and has violated load limits.

Chris: will have AI check out to see if there is a structure.

Motion by Jim to go into Non-Public at 6:40pm, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

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

- a. Legal Matters –
- b. Resident Matter

Jim makes motion to come out of non-public at 6:45, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

Public session resumed:

Jim make motion to sign letter to resident and send. Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

9. Adjournment: Jim makes motion to adjourn at 6:46pm, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, May 18, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
Select Board Minute Taker

Minutes approved by Select Board Members on _____

X

Jim Weagle
Northumberland Select Board Member

X

Chris Wheelock
Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

Michael Phillips
Northumberland Select Board Member