

Town of Northumberland
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Notice and Proposed Agenda
Date: Monday, December 16th, 2019
Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Selectmen present: Chris Wheelock, Chair, Jim Weagle, Michael Philips.

Others in attendance: Norm Cotter, Al Rossetto, James Gibson, Pete ?????, Sam Oakes, Nancy Merrow, Robin Irving, Peter Pelletier

- 1. Chairman opens the meeting:** Chris Wheelock opens the meeting with asking for motion to accept minutes from last meeting.
- 2. Acceptance of Minutes:** Jim makes motion to accept minutes from last meeting, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

3. Selectmen Business:

a. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police

James Gibson reports: 2019 – 519 calls to date, 2018 – 581 calls for same period. Down 62 calls from last year. Pattern was noticed, reason for reductions, less frequent flyers and no racetrack coverage.

2019 – 104 requests for transfers, 22 accepted, 82 declined. In 2018 there were 95 requests for transfer, 35 accepted, 60 declined.

Comstar as of 12-15-19: Gross commitments, \$424,296.00. Total collections to 12-13-2019, \$154,057.90.

James thanks everyone for support during 2019 and wishes the holidays to be safe and happy and look forward to a good new year.

Discussion between Mike and James Gibson on transfers and what they amount to. \$1,700 to \$1,800.

Discussion regarding the possible sale of 10 Station Square. This imposes a huge dilemma as the Selectmen and 2 ambulances occupy this space and a new home has to be found quickly. Robin Irving passes along that the building would probably become a restaurant and bar. Possible upstairs of the town building could be used. The trailer at the Elementary School may be an option, any land on Chapman property? Chris mentions that property is now selling. Other buildings to be considered; old Double S restaurant, in too bad of shape, Job Lot, Travidia already renting the space, Stone's Pizza? Michael mentions that the Town owns all the property around Station Square and that would make it difficult for parking for restaurant/bar. Chris admits that that could get sticky.

The question of whether or not the ambulance could be self-sufficient was brought up by Nancy Merrow? Response is that there would have to be more transfers.

Chris reads letter from Al and Gail Rossetto: The Town needs to move forward with a building for EMS, public safety. The building should be financed locally with local help to build. Should be functional by 2020.

Al feels that the raise in taxes would be minimal.

Michael says that 1.2 to 1.5 million and a new bond for water infrastructure is a lot to ask for.

Al responds that it would be approximately a 40 cent per \$1000 increase. That this project would be for all residents versus the water projects which serve only some of the residents. Grants may be obtained to finish after loan is made and town owns. Raising taxes is not favorable but a public service building would be more beneficial. Need executive guidance from the Select Board.

Michael would support 50cent per \$1000 tax increase. He is frustrated with grant funding. James says there is not a lot of funding for buildings out there, just for emergency management. Al mentions that it would be a year before brought to town voters. The short term crisis should not affect the long term. Chris feels we should start brain storming on a new place to rent relatively soon.

Suggestions of retrofitting other buildings, maybe bringing back the Building Committee were all suggested.

Michael wants this not to be a competition between EMS and water and sewer, Al restates that the EMS is at least as important as the infrastructure.

Discussion of Comstar owed back payments. Suggested by accounting to go thru and settle or write off.

Peter Pelletier for Police Dept. report

There were 9 new investigations opened, 6 arrests, 1 vehicle crash.

On Dec 16th, the department participated in regional domestic violence training. There was good attendance.

Zach is ready to begin the academy training on January 6th.

The department had a State Police/FBI educational audit. One subject being hackers are not just after business, they are also after town information. Some towns have "ransom" insurance and Primex may write into policies. We couldn't reach the bar in most areas, but when we did meet the bar it was because of the Town's help. All in all a good meeting and audit.

Chris brings up the Thompson Road camper live in, owners are asking about it. Peter will get on that.

Norm Cotter?? Asks how many dollars are invested in Academy attendance.

Pete responds with 6 months of wages, travel, etc. approximately \$26,000 after all is said and done.

Norm??? Two have left, that was a big investment.

Chris: There is a new contract, 3 years, we can now be more strict.

Norm??? She wasn't here 2 years

Peter: She asked to go to part time, so she is still on the roster.

Norm??? Have a concern over so many leaving and the costs involved.

More discussion on hires and commitments.

b. Vote on PSNH appeal agreement

There is to be a vote on the amount paid by the Town to settle. The amount would be \$27,891 paid over 6 installments in 3 years. This is a much better deal than North Stratford got, they have to pay \$200,000.

Michael makes motion to accept amount of \$27,891 to settle PSNH appeal paid over 6 installments in 3 years. Jim seconds, all in favor 3-0.

c. SEARCH grant (Prelim eng report) Engineer Selection

The Hill project. Five engineers were met with to discuss. Out of the five, Horizons was selected by Michael and Chris. Jim did not feel Horizons was a good choice.

Originally the Board had 3 different picks. The decision was hard to make because attending the meetings conflicted with jobs, etc. Email selection was the form used to choose. A preference for a local engineer prevailed and this local was less than 1% different. Robyn used standard of deviation to decide. Jim does not agree and says he did not have the numbers. Robin said she triple checked the numbers and needs a formal vote.

Michael makes motion to accept Horizons, Chris seconds, 2-0, Jim opposed.

d. 2018-2019 Property Sales

Jim motions to accept and sign, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

e. Auditor engagement letter

Annual letter to sign, \$12,000 in 2019. Jim makes motion to accept, Michael seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

f. 2020 Budget Session scheduled for January 13 at 6pm at 10 Station Square.

g. Review/discussion of letter received from resident

Chris received a letter from a resident regarding an ongoing issue on Marietta Lane. Chris to work with Becky in crafting a written response that the issue is not a Town issue, but a Civil issue.

h. Robin brings up a utility sub-easement. The draft is not available, being reviewed. Would like the Selectmen to sign contingent upon review. This would be a temporary easement. Michael makes motion to sign contingent with review, Jim seconds, all in favor, 3-0.

4. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Intents to Cut

Bag Hill Road – Neil Seriah, Richard Dupy logger

Motion by Michael to sign, second by Jim, all in favor, 3-0

Off Lost Nation Rd – Joseph Keenan, Kevin Evans, logger.

Motion by Jim to sign, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0

b. Abatement - done

c. Veteran's Credit Application

Winston Haas

Motion by Jim to sign, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0

5. Public Matters To Be Addressed By The Board:

- a. Upcoming Holiday schedule

Town offices close Dec 24 at noon, closed Dec 25, reopen Dec 26

Closed Jan 1, reopen Jan 2 8am-12

Transfer Station Open Dec 31 8am-2:30pm, closed Jan 1

- b. Nancy Merrow?? Asks if students are using the student parking lot.

Chris replies yes, and is aware of the tight parking situation.

Nancy complains of a big black truck, hard to get around and the 2 hour parking is hard to see people coming.

Chris and Michael tell Nancy that would be a State issue not a Town issue.

Motion by Michael to go into Non-Pub at 7:10pm, seconded by Jim, all in favor, 3-0.

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

- a. Resident Matter: No Decision

- b. Motion to come out of non-pub at 7:40pm by Jim, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

- c. Public Session resumed: Motion made to accept hire of Seth Arciari??? As police officer by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

- 7. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 7:42pm made by Jim, seconded by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.

Next meeting, January 6, 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 Member

X

Chris Wheelock
Northumberland Select Board Chair

December 16, 2019 Non-Pub Minutes

Began at 7:10pm

1. Michael and Evelyn Hopkins. Home by the Post Office Sale.

Evelyn would like an abatement on interest. Would like a few more dollars in her pocket.

The total owed is \$16,580.37, \$12,413.94 in principal and \$4,149.18 in interest.

Michael is willing to meet half way, but if abatement is not approved he is fine with that.

Jim: That has been a payment plan for ever.

Chris: The interest is long overdue, but will get from a sale anyway.

Michael and Chris both in agreement that owner should have come before the Board to make a plea.

Jim: I told her that she would have to go in front of the Board.

Board good with sale agreement but not with abatement. No need for Board to do anything further on this.

2. Peter Pelletier brings up woman on Brown Rd., Mrs. Rolfe. Back living in cold without water.

Chris: Do we have any legal action to pick her up and bring her back to the hospital?

Peter: No, had the paperwork, took her to the hospital for evaluation, the evaluation showed her to be fine and released her to the Tyler Blaine House in Lancaster. Now she is back here.

Chris: Did not know she was in Lancaster, have concern with if she ends up at Blaine House again and leaves, she comes back here and has no trailer to live in, shelter less.

Discussion on how she able to survive the harsh weather. The Town's responsibility for a place to stay. Cost is \$25 per day at Blaine House for 30 days, after that Town has no responsibility. No real solution.

3. Peter announces a candidate for the Police Dept. Has Full Time certification, 31 years old, 4 years on the job. Two with Lincoln PD, two with Campton PD. Had an "Oh shit" moment when his personal and work life were stressed and started drinking. He admitted to everything, was asked to resign and did. Took 6 months off to clean up, went back. He is a taser instructor and PT test administrator and has experience in assault cases. Discussion between Chris and Peter on distance of travel, willing to relocate, and if can stay locally if on shift.

Michael brings up wage, Peter suggested negotiable \$23 or so, has more experience than Boo. Michael: maybe we have an option to hire someone else in a year. Peter: I won't suggest a hire on that reason. He won't be on call outs, shifts. Only.

Chris: Can he start anytime?

Peter: Yes but has to do PT test recertification and medical. Has to have the council vote him in again as a full time officer, expected to be about January 28th.

Michael: concerned with distance to travel.

Chris: my concern as well. Are there other candidates?

Peter: not immediately. Peter would have to be shadowing this candidate for 10 to 15 days.

Jim suggests wage of \$21 for 3 months then \$23.

Michael is ok with start of \$23.

Chris: Hire would be contingent on getting his certifications, possible to ask about relocating? Notch is bad in winter.

Peter brings Seth in to meet the Board. Introductions made.

Michael asks if distance would be a problem. Peter gave a good thought on the commute.

Seth: used to working in the Notch, no problem with travel.

Michael: we welcome you now, and after a year let's see how it is working out and it may go longer.

Chris: experience on investigations, court appearances. We have room for growth, ready to go end of January?

Seth: look forward to bringing my skill set to the community.

Peter asks Seth if he would consider relocating sometime. Seth says he would have to discuss with other half.

Michael: we have a year to see if this works, evaluate, open to it.

Motion to come out of non-pub at 7:40pm made by Jim, second by Michael, all in favor, 3-0.